



Daily Report

Latin America

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Cuba

Reaction to Aftermath of Panamanian Elections

Annulment of Elections Discussed

FL1205172189

[Editorial Report] Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish at 0032 GMT on 12 May carries live its "International View" program with host Eduardo Dimas. He says they were preparing a program on the elections in Argentina. However, after hearing U.S. President George Bush announce a number of measures against Panama, and in light of the annulment of the elections in that country, they decided to carry this program on the situation in Panama instead. Dimas proceeds with the introduction of his in-studio guests who are PRENSA LATINA reporter Mario Mainade and Tele-Rebelde reporter Alicia Cascaret.

Dimas begins the discussion by asking his guests why the elections were annulled. Cascaret says it was the correct action that needed to be taken by the Panamanians at that time. The ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] had declared itself the winner and several disturbances have been taking place in the capital. She believes the application of the Panamanian Constitution's Article 36, annulment of the elections, was one way to put an end to those disturbances and to halt possible U.S. intervention in Panama.

Dimas adds that there are other reasons why it was necessary to annul the elections. Mainade explains that some of those reasons are, in addition to the \$10 million in U.S. aid to the opposition, ADOC has committed fraud in the elections, they have formed illegitimate alliances, and they have tried in every way possible to not recognize the triumph of the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition]. He adds that ADOC even refused to sign the electoral certificates of the districts where COLINA did win. Therefore, he says, the U.S. plans have been totally dismantled with the annulment of the elections.

Dimas brings up the point that a number of so-called observers to the elections were invited. He says all they did was to play along, in the game orchestrated by the United States, and to say the elections were fraudulent. Dimas adds that there were also obstructions by other parties: buying votes and annulment of ballots. He says that this totally anomalous situation called for an annulment of the elections.

Dimas brings up another point and says that ADOC assumed a very aggressive attitude, went to the streets, and had to be suppressed. Mainade adds that ADOC had already started disturbances as of Sunday afternoon, 7 May. He points out that the United States, 15 days before the elections, started to say that they would be fraudulent. He adds, the United States "began to prepare the world public opinion so as to create the appropriate environment

for everything that followed." That is what the United States had planned. However, it did not expect the annulment of the elections and was surprised by it.

About half way through the program, a live telephone report is given by a Cuban reporter from Panama, Nelson Notario Castro. He summarizes the ADOC news conference held right after the annulment of the elections. He says ADOC discussed its goals, which continue being a government without General Manuel Antonio Noriega at the head of the FDP and with Guillermo Endara heading the government. Notario Castro says ADOC talked about a national concerted action government, but they meant concerted action by the opposition, and not the patriots and the opposition. He further comments on the opposition's fraud in the elections, and concludes his report saying: "This is a lesson for everyone, and not only for the enemies of Panama and for ADOC, but also for the Panamanian patriots. I believe that the country's future is threatened today more than ever."

Dimas says that the situation is now calm in Panama. However, he refers to the speech made by President George Bush on 11 May, and Dimas reads the seven measures it contained. Mainade adds that in accordance to what Dimas just read, it is necessary to make a call to Latin American nations to support Panama at this moment more than ever. He adds that this is necessary especially now that the United States will try to present the situation from a global point of view in order to take measures against Panama. He cites as an example the special OAS meeting scheduled for 12 May to discuss the Panamanian problem. Cascaret agrees that a call for solidarity is in order now more than ever, because of the critical situation the country is going through and because of the troop reinforcements sent by the United States. Dimas notes that the classic pretext for U.S. intervention has been, like President Bush said in his speech, to protect the lives of U.S. citizens.

Dimas then warns that if Latin America plays along with the steps taken by the United States, it will become an accomplice to the situation. However, he adds, "Something much more serious is at stake here; it is the independence of Latin America."

Dimas finally concludes the program saying that although it is feasible for the United States to obtain European support on this issue, "It is totally unacceptable for a Latin American country to play the game with the United States, and against the independence and sovereignty of another Latin American country."

OAS To Hold Meeting

FL1205131489 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Today, the permanent council of the OAS will have an extraordinary meeting in Washington, at the request of Venezuela. The council will have an urgent meeting of the foreign ministers of the 31 countries of the Western Hemisphere for the purpose of examining the Panamanian situation.

It was said that the United States, along with other countries from Latin America, is preparing an anti-Panamanian resolution to be presented next week at the interministerial meeting. Today's meeting of the council comes after the U.S. decision to reinforce the U.S. troops in the canal zone with over 2,000 combat troops.

This decision was made last night by President George Bush who also announced the withdrawal of U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis. Bush also announced the reduction of U.S. diplomatic personnel in Panama, as well as the transfer of U.S. citizens who live there onto the military bases in the canal zone.

The measures taken by the U.S. leader received bipartite support from the leaders of Congress. Bush also said that he will continue the rigorous economic sanctions that were put into effect last year against Panama.

The governing Democratic Revolutionary Party accused the U.S. President of declaring a state of war against Panama. They also said that the United States was responsible for annulling the results of Sunday's [7 May] general elections. The political party said that the reasons for annulling the results are, in part, due to the open and boldfaced intervention by the United States in the Panamanian electoral process.

Just the same, the chief of Panamanian intelligence, Colonel Guillermo Wong, revealed that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez tried to provoke a coup d'etat in Panama with high-ranking officers of the Panamanian Defense Force. According to Wong, the alleged conspirators were promised abundant financial assistance, Panama's readmittance into the Group of Eight, and guaranteed the plotters international recognition.

The claim also says that the Venezuelan president included in his plan the elimination of the FDP's General Staff, leaving Col Wong in charge of this body.

The information given by the chief of Panamanian intelligence was denied by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejada, who said this was a campaign of disinformation. Meanwhile, the deposed Panamanian president, Eric Arturo Delvalle, justified the sending of more U.S. troops to the canal zone. The declarations made by Delvalle, who was deposed by the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, were made in Washington's Press Club.

Situation Blamed on U.S.

FL1205152889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1135 GMT 12 May 89

[Remarks by reporters Orlando Contreras and Daniel Torres on "Hot off the Press" section during Revista de la Manana Program—live]

[Text] [Torres] Orlando, you know that several television viewers called the Revista de la Manana studio yesterday afternoon asking that we once again discuss the topic of

Panama during today's 0735 program. It seemed very prudent to me to invite you here so that we could analyze the current situation in Panama.

There are a few new events in Panama today. For example, close to 2,000 U.S. Marines are now en route to the Panama Canal zone. You know that President George Bush yesterday authorized these reinforcements for the Howard Air Force Base in the Panama Canal. The U.S. President is also expected to make another announcement this afternoon. Reports indicate that he has consulted with congressmen and that concrete measures will be taken in the economic area. In other words, the United States will continue to harass Panama, economically.

This morning, England officially demanded the resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] is also expected to lead more demonstrations today. The confrontations have been tense. There are enormous repercussions. I was reading some reports—we have received an enormous amount of reports in our newsroom—on the reactions from progressive countries which have repudiated a possible U.S. military intervention in Panama.

However, what interests me more is the OAS meeting that is scheduled this morning in Washington to discuss the Panamanian situation. I wanted to ask you two things, since you are a Latin American specialist.

How do you perceive Bush's speech? Some people think it was moderate but his speech was unquestionably aggressive toward Panama. My second question is: What do you think will happen at the OAS meeting? [Contreras] It seems obvious to me that the Bush administration is following in the same footsteps as the Reagan administration. He is trying to pressure Panama any way possible—politically, financially, and militarily—to completely destabilize the Panamanian Government.

I think it's important, Daniel—and I call our viewers' attention to this—to note that Panama's economy is based primarily on services. It does not have a large industrial park. It does not have a developed agrarian sector. By applying financial measures and imposing an economic blockade, which began in March 1988, by intensifying these pressures—and everything seems to indicate that the Bush administration will intensify these economic, financial, political, military, diplomatic pressures, as well as the ever-present veiled threat of military intervention, which I personally doubt will be applied—the United States thinks it can make the Government of Panama collapse. It thinks it can bring down the Panamanian authorities.

You mentioned the OAS meeting. You know it was requested by the Group of Eight. Our viewers might remember that this group is comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The nation not mentioned here is the affected country, Panama, which was excluded from the Group of

Eight last year. It is now the group of seven. It has been excluded because the Panamanian authorities, in a completely legitimate decision that reflects the country's sovereignty, dismissed former President Eric Delvalle. [Words indistinct] the so-called inter-American system of the OAS.

Apart from the events that have arisen, it seems to me that what we have to analyze here is the origin of this phenomenon. I think that every political action is related to what has happened. There is no doubt that the United States for at least the past 17 or 18 months has been intervening in Panama. In what way is it intervening?

A few moments ago, I mentioned the political, financial, economic, diplomatic, and military pressures. Besides this, besides the obvious interference that violates all agreements and international law, we must analyze the current crisis that our brother country is experiencing. The correct analysis at the Latin American level should begin with: Who is the aggressor? What are the forces that have been unleashed to destabilize Panama and to change the direction of sovereign decisions that can only be made by the Panamanian people?

All our viewers know that long before these elections were called and even after they were called, the United States mounted a worldwide publicity campaign with all its available resources—its multinational media forms, television, all communications sources, diplomatic sources—to allege that if the opposition did not win, it was due to fraud. There was virtually no alternative; either the opposition won or the elections were fraudulent. This conditioned the entire political panorama in Panama. After the elections took place, certainly with some irregularities, the United States accused Panama of fraud.

Where did these irregularities come from? The first irregularity is the offensive action of the United States. The United States clearly interfered despite international law and common practice between nations, which is something no one can ignore.

Panama is a country that has a financial crisis, a very serious economic problem. It also has what economists call a liquidity problem because Panama virtually has no currency. The balboa is just small change. The United States has produced a crisis of liquidity. There is practically no money. It is important to remember, for example, that when this crisis arose, officials of the U.S. Treasury Department and high-level bank officials went to Panama and opened the vaults of many U.S. banks and proceeded to burn the money. They burned the money to create the liquidity problem.

With all these elements of interference, with all sorts of pressures, and with the United States unquestionable desire to destabilize the legitimate authorities of Panama, it is evident that U.S. interference is what has created the current crisis.

[Torres] Contreras, I would like to ask you the following. Why is there such a huge publicity campaign against Panama? It is obviously being led by the United States. I tried to edit some satellite video footage on this campaign to show on television. The manipulation of information on the part of the principal television stations of the world seemed so grotesque to me. They are now trying to stress an alleged repression in Panama. Four, five, or six video clips show a few confrontations between progovernment forces and opposition members. Confrontations happen in every country when there is an election. The confrontations in Panama were a little more violent than usual.

[Contreras] But, this is understandable.

[Torres] I wanted to ask you about the video that has been shown around the world. Do you think that this may cause Latin America to express its solidarity with Panama?

[Contreras] If political actions are moderate and responsible, a video or a campaign of manipulation for perverse and well-known purposes should not influence high-level political decisions. I think that this campaign, this worldwide publicity campaign, is basically directed at public opinion which they themselves feed. We all know that almost 80 percent of the information that is distributed throughout the world comes from the same place, the multinational information sources. I believe that high-level political decisions cannot be influenced by a video or a campaign of this nature. If one wants to link political decisions with the manipulation that is being produced on a massive level, then that's a different story.

[Torres] Some analysts say that a certain territory is being prepared for a possible direct military intervention. I would agree with your opinion. I don't think that this is the right time for that but things are heading in a certain direction. There is even publicity supporting this other theory. Do you think that the United States could change its mind and use force as a way to quote, solve this Panamanian crisis, unquote?

[Contreras] The United States says it has 10,000 troops in the canal zone and in the Southern Command area. Actually, they have 15,000 troops there because not everyone was rotated during the rotation period. Different sources, including Panamanian sources, report that the United States has 15,000 troops there. I don't think that sending 3,000 [figure as heard] more troops—who left this morning from Carolina [as heard], California, and Louisiana—constitutes a factor, in military terms, that will change the correlation of forces between the Southern Command and the U.S. troops based in Panama. The purpose of this is to create a certain image of action. The purpose of these troops is to create pressure by their presence. I don't know if this is clear. The United States wants to create pressure with the presence of these troops. The United States wants to bring the situation to a head, to the brink of the abyss.

With international feelings the way they are now, with agreements being reached at the superpower level which will lead to an understanding in the nuclear sphere, I think that the Bush administration would make a big mistake in undertaking a military intervention. This would simply invalidate the policy of detente which the United States has accepted because it is evident that a nuclear war would be impossible for all of humanity.

The United States has two different types of behavior at the international level. The first is the one I've just mentioned and the second one is its policy of maintaining low-level conflicts. This would make it possible to create an intervention and I don't think that it would be a classic intervention. It would not be like the 1983 Grenada invasion. The United States is using the same reasons it used before: the protection of U.S. civilians. Some are now living on the bases of the Southern Command while others are leaving the country. This creates an extremely tense situation. The United States is justifying all its economic, financial, political, and military measures.

[Torres] Thank you very much, Comrade Orlando Contreras. As usual, he is a very well-informed man. He works for the Radio Rebelde news service.

U.S. Trying 'To Steal' Sovereignty
FL1205153289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 May 89

[Report by Roberto Agudo]

[Text] Good morning, comrades. With this news bulletin, "Revista de la Manana" [Morning Magazine] is trying to come up with a coherent line in connection with the most important news item not only in Cuba but also in the rest of the world: the situation in Panama. We are bringing together a number of elements and submitting them for your consideration. Our aim is to help you reach a conclusion through plain and simple reporting and to show that what is happening in Panama is a very well-organized, carefully structured plan whose principal objective is to try to steal the sovereignty of a people—in this case, Panama's. We also want to show you how the plan in the end seeks to avoid turning over the canal in the year 2000.

I would like to quote the part of the Cuban Foreign Ministry statement carried by all our media yesterday that says that for Cuba—and I would add, for all of Latin America—it is not an electoral process, the Panamanian electoral process, that is at stake at this time. It is the U.S. attempts to set itself up as the arbiter of political processes, to promote the objective of intervening in the internal affairs of any country and restricting sovereignty in particular.

Let us watch the latest news clips to reach us. Meanwhile, we will submit some of these news elements for your consideration. Here you have some of the troops coming

from the United States. [Video shows scenes featuring soldiers, equipment, convoys, and helicopters variously identified by captions as set in Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Ord, California; Cherry Point, North Carolina; and Fort Clayton, Panama; taken from the "Today" show of 12 May; video closes with shots of Senators Alan Cranston and John McCain.] It is estimated, it has been officially reported that they number some 2,000 and perhaps 2,500. They are part of a rapid deployment force whose objective, according to official U.S. spokesmen, is to defend American citizens in Panama. By the way, some experts note that this often used phrase can be traced back almost to the beginnings of the capitalist history of the United States. This claim about defending American citizens and U.S. property in various parts of the world—in this case, Panama—has been wielded to cover up or, rather, to manipulate world public opinion and effect intervention, while at the same time creating elements to destabilize the political situation of a country, as it is doing in Panama right now.

What are the elements that I would like you to analyze? There is for instance, the charges of fraud leveled long before the actual elections; that is, the United States setting the first element in place to start manipulating opinions, ideas, minds; afterward, pressure on Latin American and European governments; finally, this movement of troops to show that the United States has the strength and has the duty—it claims—of intervening.

Mr George Bush, the President of the United States, has said that he favors political methods, negotiated solutions. However, what you are seeing on your screens demonstrates the opposite. The true aim is to bring military pressure to bear. He has also mobilized the whole Congress; we must make very clear, comrades, that both the Republicans and the Democrats have issued a joint statement supporting each and every one of the decisions made by the American Government, particularly, in this case, supporting those of President Bush.

The OAS will meet in Washington this morning. In fact, it is likely that the meeting will start shortly. The OAS will discuss the possibility of convening a foreign ministers' meeting. The Latin American countries are being pressured. Many of them, the immense majority of them, have said "no" to military intervention. Nevertheless, this is an element that we wanted to point out to you.

Let's take another element: the most recent demonstration in Panama City. The first reports, from the so-called free press in the United States, said that people were injured as a result of repression by the Panamanian Defense Forces and by the population. Nonetheless, it turned out that the first four injured were members of the FDP who had been fired upon. The American newsmen, the immense majority of them, were behind those cameras looking for this news, because they knew what was going to happen in advance.

We have brought up these news elements so that you can evaluate and better understand that this is a very well orchestrated situation by the U.S. Government. This once again shows what American democracy means. We have followed this news line since the first newscast at 0700 and in the exchange between Daniel Torres and our other Rebelde comrades. We will, of course, analyze this situation further later on because it is extremely serious. It is a really tense situation. It not only concerns Panama; it concerns Latin America. Thank you very much for listening, comrades.

Commentary on U.S. Supporters
*FL1205190989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 May 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The prevailing situation in Panama is evidence of two fundamental things: first, that the U.S. scheme of coexistence takes no account of small countries at all; second, that the focus the United States gives to relations in this hemisphere continues to be based on a policy of force.

If the United States is able to impose its will in Panama, no matter what method it uses to do so, we will witness a considerable diminishment in the rights of sovereignty and self-determination of the peoples of the continent.

As Cuba has emphasized, what is at stake here is not the electoral process in a regional country. It is the United States' attempts to set itself up as the arbiter of political processes in our countries. What is at stake here is whether or not to accept the so-called U.S. right to interfere in the domestic affairs of the states of the continent and to maintain a tutelage over these same states that limits their sovereignty and rights as independent members of the international community.

The United States is the main protagonist in the serious situation created in Panama, no matter how hard it tries to pretend it is not. There is a long history that shows the United States laying the ground work for international public opinion for the purpose of finding an excuse for a probable military action against Panama.

It is the President of the United States who has called for a virtual state of war against Panama. It was President Bush—one must remember this—who, under the Reagan administration, publicly issued a death threat against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. It was also President Bush who, even before elections were held in Panama, declared them fraudulent if a ticket contrary to Washington's interests were elected.

What is behind this overt and brazen meddling? Undoubtedly, the aim is to annul the canal treaty signed in 1977, or, at least, to establish a travesty of a government in Panama subservient to U.S. policy. The United States is trying to harness Latin American countries to its

interventionist chariot. It is the most perfect way to mask its leading role in the anti-Panamanian campaign. It might succeed. In that case, those who supported it will lose in the long run.

U.S. Troops Arrive in Panama
*FL1205234589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 2313 GMT 12 May 89*

[Text] The first plane with reinforcement supplies for U.S. Army's Southern Command, located in the outskirts of the Panamanian capital, arrived shortly after midday today in line with President George Bush's orders. Seventy U.S. planes with troops and more supplies began arriving at 1400. This was reported to Spanish EFE news agency, to Colonel (Ronald Sconger), public affairs director of the Southern Command.

The first plane, a Hercules C-141, was parked at the end of the runway. According to (Sconger), journalists will not be allowed to watch the unloading of the plane because of security reasons inasmuch as it contains delicate material that could explode.

In the mean time, the OAS Permanent Council made a unanimous call today to hold a foreign ministers meeting of member countries next Wednesday to consider the crisis in Panama. The 31 member countries of the hemispheric group approved without objections a proposal made by Venezuela to analyze the outcome of Sunday's elections and the sending of U.S. troops to the canal zone ordered by President George Bush yesterday.

Possible Military Action Noted
*FL1305114189 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 May 89*

[Text] Within the past few hours, over 15 U.S. planes carrying combat-ready troops have arrived at Howard Air Force Base in Panama's canal zone. At the same time, the United States is evacuating U.S. civilians and personnel out of the city to the military areas. Various sources consider these actions as preparatory measures for a military action against Panama.

Yesterday, the chief of the Southern Command, General Frederick Woerner, made some very aggressive statements. He said that he would assume the responsibility of supporting President Bush's policies to reestablish democracy in Panama.

In New York, the influential newspaper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL said: We wish that a military action would not be necessary in Panama, but it could be that this is the only option.

Political parties, personalities, and international organizations have called for Latin America's solidarity, as well as the world's solidarity, in the face of the United States real military threat against Panama.

In Rio de Janeiro, President Jose Sarney said that Brazil absolutely rejects the possibility of U.S. military intervention. Sarney affirmed that he has kept in touch with his Mexican, Venezuelan, and Argentine counterparts. In Montevideo, President Julio Maria Sanguinetti said: Let us hope that in Panama peace will not be disturbed and that no aggression or confrontation occurs between that country and the United States.

On Wednesday, the OAS foreign ministers will have a special emergency meeting to study the situation. At this meeting, the United States will present an anti-Panamanian resolution and will try to drag Latin America to their interventionist side.

U.S. Interference Discussed

PA1405155789 Havana International Service
in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 89

["Topics" program by Elena Nunez and Roberto Morejon]

[Text] [Morejon] The flagrant U.S. intervention in Panama has resulted in a situation that threatens peace in the Western Hemisphere and throughout the world.

Several Latin American and European countries have reacted correctly to the Panamanian situation—such as the Soviet Union, which warns of a possible U.S. intervention in Panama.

What are the chances of intervention? It is very likely. As all of you know, 2,000 U.S. soldiers have begun to arrive in Panama to join the 10,000 U.S. soldiers already stationed there. The presence of that military force on the U.S. military bases in Panama truly increases the danger of a military intervention in that country.

As for [words indistinct] incidents occurring in Panama regarding the 7 May elections, which were an internal event, we can say the United States completely manipulated those elections to turn them into an excuse to interfere in Panamanian domestic affairs.

[Nunez] I fully agree with what the most recent issue of Brazilian newspaper [name indistinct] says, which is that the U.S. decision to [word indistinct] the Panamanian Government has nothing to do with drugs or the election results; the U.S. Government is really trying to avoid fulfilling the canal treaties.

The U.S. campaign against Panama, which began long before the elections, intended to make the public believe a fraud was going to be carried out after the elections and was the continuation of the illegal U.S. policy toward Panama, as the Cuban Foreign Ministry statement said. That policy is based on the construction of only limited sovereignty in all Latin American countries and on Washington's right to establish itself as supreme judge of our region's governments' legality and [word indistinct] with the will of the Latin American peoples.

[Morejon] We must recall that the U.S. attacks on Panama began to increase 2 years ago and that its basic target has been Panama Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Using a number of excuses, manipulation, and disinformation, the United States has presented a false image of Panama's reality. Based on that manipulation of information and resorting to [word indistinct] excuses, the United States decreed a blockade against Panama and even froze Panamanian funds in U.S. banks, which placed Panama's economy in a desperate situation.

As you said earlier, Elena, the United States was already seeking an excuse for interfering in Panama before the 7 May elections. Until now, U.S. interference had been political and economic, although military interference was never ruled out. Now a number of excuses are being presented to justify a military intervention, as happened in Grenada.

We must recall that when the U.S. Government was seeking excuses to intervene in Grenada and defeat Maurice Bishop's progressive government, the U.S. Government used the excuse of protecting the safety of U.S. citizens living in Grenada although it was proved that that safety was never endangered. The United States is using the same excuse in Panama, and thus the first U.S. soldiers of a 2,000-soldier group have just arrived in Panama, which will join the 10,000 soldiers stationed at the U.S. bases in Panama.

There is something else. The brazen U.S. meddling in the Panamanian election process is not an isolated incident. We must consider that the United States has meddled in other election processes in Latin America, not to mention in areas outside the Western Hemisphere. This has been a routine way of handling election processes in Latin America—(to where our programs are beamed).

For example, I recall the constant reelections of Paraguayan dictator Alfredo Stroessner, entailing total, open, and flagrant election fraud. However, the United States looked the other way [words indistinct] under these circumstances. In El Salvador, foreign meddling is well known—namely, U.S. interference in that country's elections. Therefore, we can cite a number of examples on the matter; there are several precedents concerning the way the United States tries to distort the domestic processes of Latin America to change the course of history to suit its interests.

[Nunez] That is why it is said that what is at stake is not an election process but the future of our continent, because the United States has taken upon itself the right to judge the legality of our countries' election and political processes. This is really unacceptable now when there is talk of detente and world peace. However, the United States is presently providing weapons to other countries and meddling in regional conflicts. The United States has again

shown its double standard. It demands certain countries not to interfere in regional conflicts, and yet it [words indistinct], chiefly in countries of our America.

[Morejon] I think the situation in Panama will continue to change, and we will say more on this segment in the weeks ahead.

WHO Pressured To Delay Palestinian Admittance
FL1305140889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] In Geneva, Cuba has denounced the economic pressures the United States has placed on the WHO to delay the admittance of the Palestinian State in that special UN organization. The declarations were made before the WHO National Assembly.

After the vote which postponed Palestine's admittance until next year, Jorge Antelo, Cuban first vice public health minister, warned that if the elements which have impeded the Palestinian people's right to belong to the WHO are not seriously and rapidly studied, the incident will be repeated.

The chief of the Cuban delegation ratified our country's support for the Palestinian State and condemned the United States arrogant attitude which last week said they would cease to give contributions to the WHO's budget if the organization approved the admittance of Palestine.

Jamaica

Manley Terms Panamanian Annulment 'Shameful'
PA1405135289 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish
1250 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley today described as shameful the annulment of Panama's 7 May elections and said his country supports the Venezuelan proposal to hold a meeting of OAS foreign ministers to discuss the issue.

Michael Manley arrived in Caracas yesterday and talked to journalists after meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez at Miraflores Presidential Palace. He said he had analyzed the Panamanian situation with Perez after the annulment of the elections—which, it was reported, indicated opposition candidate Guillermo Endara easily defeated progovernment rival Carlos Duque.

Trinidad and Tobago

Government Rejects Panama Election Annulment
PA 405211389 Paris AFP in Spanish 2043 GMT
14 May 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, 14 May (AFP)—The Trinidadian and Tobago Government has issued a statement indicating that the annulment of the 7 May Panamanian elections is "a step backward and a denial of the Panamanian people's will."

In the statement, the Trinidadian and Tobago Government emphasizes that it has always been committed to the principle of nonintervention, but that in this case the evidence of election fraud has forced it to decry the irregularities perpetrated by paramilitary forces and other groups loyal to Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Prime Minister Ray Robinson pointed out that there is evidence that the opposition presidential candidate—who was injured along with one of the opposition vice presidential candidates—won the elections by a wide margin.

The statement adds that the Trinidadian and Tobago Government adds its voice to that of other Latin American and Caribbean democracies, which have condemned the election fraud and violence in Panama. Prime Minister Robinson also urged Panamanian authorities to acknowledge the people's will. Three other Caribbean countries—Jamaica, Barbados, and the Dominican Republic—have also condemned the events in Panama.

Costa Rica

Government Declaration on Panamanian Situation

PA1305013989 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
0047 GMT 13 May 89

[Statement issued by the government in San Jose on 12 May]

[Text] In view of the grave incidents that have occurred in Panama, the Costa Rican Government declares the following:

1. It reiterates its condemnation of the flagrant disrespect for the Panamanian people's sovereign will as expressed at the polls. This disrespect for the people's will was documented by international observers, including the magistrate of the Costa Rican Supreme Electoral Tribunal, who was invited by the president of the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal [TEP].

2. It condemns the acts of violence by the Panama Defense Forces and other paramilitary organizations against the Panamanian people, especially the attack against [opposition candidates] Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford.

3. It repudiates the TEP decision to annul the 7 May elections.

4. It reiterates its conviction that a collective OAS action can protect democracy in Panama. For this purpose, the Costa Rican Government has begun efforts with other countries so that the OAS will hear about the situation in Panama and will take the measures [words indistinct] that will guarantee the Panamanian people's sovereignty and compliance with international commitments. This will ensure respect for the Panamanian people's will and for all their civil and political rights.

5. It calls on the international community, particularly the OAS member states, to express their support for the Panamanian people's desire for democracy.

Panamanian Planes Flying Over Border Area

FL1205173789 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1650 GMT 12 May 89

[By correspondent Yazmin Ross]

[Text] San Jose, 12 May (NOTIMEX)—It was reported today that Costa Rica has reinforced vigilance along the border with Panama in view of the threat of U.S. military intervention in the Panama Canal Zone.

Members of the Costa Rican Civil and Rural Guards are patrolling the border and will reinforce their watch at Paso Canoas and Sixaola, the two main border posts, as a precaution against the entry of Panamanian refugees who have begun to request political asylum in Costa Rica.

Commissioner Juan Felix Barrantes, director of the Civil Guard, reported that there are ground patrols along the southern border, where the situation so far is calm.

On the other side of the border, Panamanian Defense Force aircraft are flying over the area in precautionary defensive operations [operativos de resguardo defensivo].

Government forces have disclosed that Red Cross personnel were also moved to the border to attend to the flow of refugees, which could increase in the next few days if Panama's domestic situation takes a turn for the worse.

Barrantes did not say how many men are guarding the border, which is a virtually uninhabited area taken up by large banana plantations, mostly belonging to United Fruit Company.

However, unofficial sources reported that almost half of the civil guard troops, some 7,500 men, are concentrated near the border.

El Salvador

Duarte on FMLN's UN Visit, Panama Elections

PA0905214089 San Salvador TCS Television
in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 May 89

[Report by Samuel Arias on statements by President Jose Napoleon Duarte on 7 May; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who is considered one of the pioneers in the democratization of our country because of his great efforts in search of peace through the path of dialogue, feels that the talks being held by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] at the United Nations are not very significant and that the FMLN leaders have only gone there to express their viewpoints.

[Duarte] "I do not attribute much importance to these talks because, as you know, they have made many such visits. It is part of an ongoing effort on their part. They visit anybody who has any influence to present their viewpoints. I have done the same thing. I have visited all the people who have influence in the world to ask them to support the Salvadoran people's struggle for democracy."

The president's concern over the existing state of crisis is not limited to our country. It extends to the entire Central American region, and at present is concentrated on what will happen in our neighboring country, Panama, which had presidential elections yesterday and where outbreaks of violence have been predicted.

[Duarte] "There are still people who want to impose their will by force instead of by reason. I am afraid the Panamanian situation will worsen, because of some people's interest in imposing their will by force. I hope the Panamanian people will have the opportunity to

freely choose their rulers, as we have done in El Salvador, so that the person who wins, the people's choice, can assume the responsibility of leading the country.

"I believe the incumbent Salvadoran Government, and the government that will take office on 1 June, are dutybound to defend the democratic process in the world, because the only way to achieve peace is through understanding, tolerance, and respect for human rights, which is democracy."

In addition, President Duarte disclosed that instructions have been issued to release disabled FMLN prisoners, and that coordination is under way with the International Red Cross to that end. He said that this is the Armed Forces' historic duty.

The president made these comments after participating in the military ceremony to mark Soldiers Day, one of his last activities as president of the Republic.

PDC Leader Supports Panama Opposition, Cerezo
PA1105132389 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] El Salvador's Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has congratulated the Panamanian people for the triumph of democracy in Panama during the presidential elections.

The Salvadoran PDC concurrently reported fraudulent maneuvers by Panamanian Government followers.

Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, who along with other PDC leaders came to Panama to observe the elections, said that if the government wins the elections, it would clearly prove fraud was perpetrated by General Manuel Antonio Noriega's followers. He said statistics indicate opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara won the elections.

[Begin Morales recording] I hope the Panamanian people's vote will be respected. I hope Gen Noriega's government will respect the people's will and surrender power to the winner, Mr Endara; I ask the entire world to demand the Panamanian people's will be respected.

I am also concerned about the attempted coup in Guatemala. These kinds of actions should be abolished in countries where democratic systems are emerging. I support President Cerezo and urge the Guatemalan people to continue in their effort to democratize and strengthen the democratic system in Guatemala. All the people of the world should be equally supportive of democratic governments to perfect the democratic system. [end recording]

Morales also rejected the possibility of a U.S. invasion of Panama, saying there are different mechanisms whereby the Panamanian Government can be forced to accept the people's decision.

Plan To Kidnap ARENA Leaders Revealed
PA0905220989 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY
in Spanish 6 May 89 p 5

[Text] FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] terrorists intend to kidnap several Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) leaders through FMLN-FDR front groups in order to blackmail Alfredo Cristiani's new government.

Those statements were made by a prominent ARENA leader, who was warned by members of a security corps' intelligence department about subversive plans against him.

The ARENA leader said that this security corps recently arrested members of one of the FMLN-FDR front groups, who confessed to terrorist plans, including the abduction of ARENA leaders to exert pressure on Cristiani's government to force it to negotiate with the subversive criminals.

During Duarte's administration, the FMLN-FDR kidnapped one of Duarte's daughters and Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos. In exchange for their return, the FMLN-FDR requested the release of several imprisoned terrorists.

The ARENA leader said that the rebel movement must give clear evidence that it wants peace and that it has abandoned its policy of blackmail.

Armed Forces Discover Cuban-Made Ammunition
PA0905155289 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY
in Spanish 8 May 89 pp 10, 47

[Text] A cache of ammunition for Soviet-made AK-47 rifles was confiscated by Cavalry Regiment troops during an operation carried out at San Alfredo stream at the San Carlos Farm, Huizucar jurisdiction, La Libertad.

According to an investigation by military intelligence, the 504 confiscated rounds were manufactured in Cuba and arrived in El Salvador through Nicaragua.

This ammunition can only be used in AK-47 or AK-M rifles and is further evidence of Cuban interference in the country's internal affairs, several military leaders said.

The ammunition was shown to the press at the Cavalry Regiment by the unit's commander, Colonel Juan Carlos Carrillo, who described the operation as a success because none of the soldiers who took part in the operation were wounded. Carrillo said four guerrillas were killed.

*** Construction of New Community Described**
32480127 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA—
REVISTA DOMINICAL in Spanish 9 Apr 89 p 7

[Text] Working from dawn to dusk for 2 years without receiving any wages, ignoring fatigue and filling the atmosphere with laughter and humor—this is the environment created by the inhabitants of the neglected

Tutunichapa I community in their urban development construction effort. They are taking the work of building their little houses seriously. Sometimes strength is lacking, but not hope, and this motivates them to push forward, in order to face up to the future which is dawning on the other side of the river.

The Tutunichapa I community is located on the northern side of the new Social Security Hospital (on the banks of a stream with the same name), and its beginnings go back 40 years.

The 1986 earthquake completely razed the entire settlement. As a consequence of this event, the poor living conditions of these residents deteriorated even further. The only remnants their old homes were pieces of roof sheeting, which the residents are now using in their new construction efforts.

If indeed the October seismic disturbance put the final touch on the misfortunes of these neglected people, they were lucky in that the eyes of the world were focused on them, and humanitarian organizations gave priority to aiding them. And this led to the construction of 355 housing units on the southern bank of the ravine under the supervision of the Salvadoran Foundation for Development and Minimal Housing (FUNDASAL).

Winter Floods

Since the settlement is on the bank of a stream, it is often inundated by winter floods, and it is said that a number of individuals have lost their lives when they were swept away by the waters of this natural stream which flows through a good part of San Salvador.

So that building foundations could be created in earth which is filled with moisture and sand, the technical advisers on construction undertook the compacting of the ground and the building of a wall almost 3 meters high and 300 meters long, so that the site where the houses will be built is beyond the reach of the stream.

While their houses are under construction, the residents have "built" palm-thatched shelters on the northern bank of the stream. A wooden bridge links them with the homes under construction.

Minimal Cost

"Don Juan," the technical director for the project, explained that the materials for building all the homes have been provided by the FUNDASAL, but the houses are not free. The cost of all these materials will be paid off over the long term in very small installments. The total cost of each unit is 5,000 colones, and depending on the economic capacity of the family, the monthly payments vary between 25 and 50 colones.

The houses will be extremely small, with but a single room, and in some cases they will be smaller than those which have already been built. "We will enlarge them later," says Dona Isabel, one of the pioneers in the settlement. And she is right. There are families with as many as 10 members, all of them living now in a single thatched hut under the sanitary conditions typical of a slum settlement.

But even so, the new housing units will offer several advantages. There will be drinking water, a system of drainage and sewage pipes (all thanks to a donation from the Sponsors' Plan organization), and electric light. And as if this were not enough, each roof is a platform built so that a second floor can be added if the owner wishes.

Higher Income for Better Conditions

But simply moving from a hut on one side of the stream to a modern house on the other would be like putting on clean clothing without having bathed.

In reality, the project covers much more than this. "It is rather a change in attitude, in life style, in organization and education," says a member of the community leadership. "It is not just a change in housing, but a change in thinking."

In this connection, the Sponsors' Plan is providing training courses for all of the members of the community in such areas as masonry, garment cutting and sewing, industrial machine operation, carpentry, and others. The goal sought is to train individuals to work in a specialty so that they can increase the economic income of the family and provide themselves with a higher standard of living.

Isidro Gonzalez, a member of the communal leadership who has lived in poverty for 25 years, said the following. "If some organizations do not provide us with support, we will never resolve our problem." In the opinion of this gentleman, the project has revolutionized the whole of the community's thinking. By way of example, he speaks of the young people who have traditionally "gone astray" but are now devoting their time to work from which they will benefit. This has led to changes in the way they behave, and they have even acquired an attitude of comradeship and camaraderie with the "old folks."

Age and sex discrimination do not exist here. Everyone works equally—young and old together are building the Tutunichapa Urban Development. They are prepared to build a better future for themselves in every respect. The women are being trained in environmental health, so that they can directly support the residents in maintaining good health. Of course this includes the men, who are taking responsibility for the heavier work.

With teamwork it is easy to achieve the goals set, and it even becomes a romantic and hopeful effort when what is sought is the common good. The birth of a great future is painful. There will always be problems in eliminating

the poverty belts, but the willingness of the people to work is not flagging, because they are looking toward the future, which can be glimpsed on the horizon on the other side of the river.

Guatemala

Cerezo: Panamanian Will Must Be 'Respected'
*FL1205194489 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish
11 May 89 p 4*

[Text] "We have always believed that we Central Americans must fight and work tirelessly to strengthen democratic processes. That is why we deplore and condemn all moves to thwart democracy in Panama. The Panamanian people have the right to have their will respected." This has been said here by President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo.

The president recalled that he sent a letter to General Antonio Noriega a few days ago exhorting him to respect the will of the people at all times as expressed by their vote.

"We do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and at no time does this message mean that Guatemala is meddling in the affairs of another country; it is only an appeal for solidarity and peace, which we Central Americans are so much in need of," President Cerezo explained.

Thus, what is "now happening in Panama worries us a great deal; however, we are still full of hope and we are certain that the democratic process will prevail in the end," he noted.

The president reiterated that Guatemala is closely following events in Panama and it is these events that will form the basis for a decision or a change in the country's current stance on the Panamanian situation.

"For now, we are reiterating our position calling the Panamanian authorities to reflection so they can find peaceful solutions that might lead to democracy."

President Cerezo also touched on other topics, such as the case of the Guatemalan Red Cross.

On this subject, he said that the government respects the decisions of the courts. "This has been further evidence that justice is being applied and that the rule of law prevails in Guatemala," he said.

"We act within the framework of the law and we will continue to act this way; we will always respect whatever the legal organs say or decide," he said.

Lastly, he stressed that the national army has fulfilled its duty and is demonstrating "maturity and growth," contrary to what "some ill-intentioned politicians have said in the past."

Honduras

Finance Minister on U.S. Economic Report
*FL1205175989 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video
in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 89*

[Interview with Jose Efraim Bu Giron, Honduran Finance and Public Credit minister, by Gustavo Rubi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rubi] Mr Minister, the U.S. Embassy has released a report stating that the Honduran Government is incompetent.

[Bu Giron] I do not think that the U.S. Embassy has, let us say, reasons to say that the Honduran Government is incompetent. The truth is that the Honduran Government has taken serious structural measures. It has reduced government spending as much as possible. This was proven when we negotiated the first part of the agreement and when they came here to evaluate the results of the measures we had agreed on in the first part of the agreement. At that time, the Honduran Government and the autonomous institutions agreed to cut spending by 48 million lempiras. Fortunately, sudden cut-backs are not that easy to make. If this government were a dictatorial government, it would be easy to fire hundreds of government workers, but we do not want to do this nor will we do it. If we are being called incompetent because we are protecting the jobs and the only means of support for all those people, then we are incompetent.

We have also agreed with the World Bank to study how the administrative structure operates in order to reorganize the autonomous organizations. We want to make those organizations more operational from an administrative viewpoint. This study is being undertaken by World Bank and Honduran Government representatives, including representatives of the autonomous institutions. We are doing all we can to improve the economic situation.

We have drafted some economic measures. I have them here with me. However, I will not show them to you because it would be too boring to broach this matter at this time. I can tell you that we have taken some administrative measures to improve workers' incomes. I urge you to look back to 1981 and analyze how workers' incomes have increased since then. I will not deny that we have had to confront some social problems that called for heavy spending, like the demands made by the health sector workers and the government employees. However, we cannot stop, or sacrifice, this country's social development because we do not want to find ourselves faced with a violent situation, nor do we want to hinder our country's peace. Only the Honduran people, without class distinction, can do what is needed to improve the country's economy. Friendly countries, like the United States, should also be

interested in strengthening our economy—and thus strengthening our democracy; not just Honduran democracy but Central American democracy.

To date, Honduras has been a victim of violence that it did not cause. We have suffered the negative effects of that violence. As you know, we have thousands of refugees. This has created social and economic problems. We have accepted these problems because, in matters of asylum, Honduras has always been willing to help anyone who is being persecuted for political reasons. However, we also need some understanding. We need the help and understanding of friendly countries to strengthen our democracy. Here in Honduras, we do not want situations like what we saw recently in Venezuela. We do not want our political problem to be solved like the Panamanian problem where the world has witnessed bloody and fraudulent elections that do not represent the will of the people. We want to give meaning to democracy. We want the Honduran people to feel fulfilled, and we want the next government to be the genuine expression of the Honduran people's will.

[Rubi] We read a report stating that the Central Bank lied when it reported that there was 4.5 percent inflation.

[Bu Giron] I do not think the Central Bank reported 4.5 percent inflation. The bank reported approximately 5 percent inflation. I do not believe that Central Bank economists and analysts, men who are aware of the country's economic and financial situation, would try to fool the Honduran people. We are accustomed to telling the people the truth.

[Rubi] Mr Minister, according to the U.S. Embassy report, the current government has not created incentives for investment. The report adds that there are legal barriers that affect foreign investment, bureaucratic restrictions, and other measures that hinder the country's development.

[Bu Giron] That is their opinion. There are organizations that support a devaluation of our currency, but you know what the effect of a devaluation would be. A devaluation would make the poor poorer and the rich richer. That is why we have opposed a devaluation and we wish to create the adequate conditions to protect the value of our currency.

[Rubi] You are currently involved in negotiations with the IMF. It seems that you are being pressured to devalue our currency. Is the IMF still pressuring you.

[Bu Giron] It is just a matter of how you view it. They feel that the devaluation is necessary. But I ask myself: What country has overcome its economic problems with a currency devaluation? What has a devaluation solved?

[Rubi] Is the government bent on rejecting the pressures exerted by the international organizations that are demanding a devaluation of the lempira?

[Bu Giron] The government must do what is good for the Honduran people. The Honduran people support the government and the government must defend the country's interests.

[Rubi] Does this report represent more pressure by international organizations?

[Bu Giron] I think the report must be studied by Honduran economists and authorities. The report will be studied. We do not think this report will make anyone yield.

[Rubi] Mr Minister, do you think this report is an attack on our sovereignty by the U.S. Embassy? We must ensure that the actions of the government are respected.

[Bu Giron] I do not believe that saying what they think represents an attack on our sovereignty. The important thing is for the Honduran people to be aware of their own actions and decisions.

[Rubi] [Words indistinct] the government?

[Bu Giron] I would not describe it as intervention. They are not issuing orders. The U.S. Embassy just expressed its opinion. As I said, I cannot analyze the report because I have not read it.

Minimum Wage Hike To Precede IMF Agreement
FL1105132389 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 10 May 89 p 3

[Text] Finance and Public Credit Minister Jose Efraim Bu Giron announced yesterday that the government will increase the minimum wage before signing an agreement with the IMF.

Bu Giron said that the economic measures being negotiated with the IMF will entail a measure of sacrifice by the entire Honduran people, but cautioned that the plan would affect those who earn the minimum wage the most.

The minister did not explain exactly how the measures would affect those who earn the least, but stressed that it is necessary to increase the minimum wage before reaching any agreement with the IMF.

The finance minister reiterated that the government will not negotiate the stability of the lempira's exchange rate "because we do not want to sacrifice the country by leading it to a merciless devaluation of the currency, which would be a blow to the poorest sectors."

Asked what would happen to those who earn the minimum wage if the lempira had to be devalued, Bu Giron replied that their wages would not cover even their most basic needs.

Bu Giron also said that the government's negotiations with the IMF do not include a mass dismissal of public employees as one of the options to reduce the size of the government and consequently cut the size of the fiscal deficit.

IMF Delegation Departs Without Agreement
FL0905205089 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO
in Spanish 9 May 89 p 3

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa—International Monetary Fund, IMF, officials left the country over the weekend without reaching an agreement with the government. A quick return visit to the country is unlikely because the IMF's three most recent visits have been unfruitful and the IMF directors are upset over the government's reluctance to meet IMF requirements. [passage omitted]

After holding 3 consecutive days of meetings, the IMF officials and the government representatives were unable to reach an agreement, due to differences over the measures outlined in the "controversial" "Economic Emergency Decree." [passage omitted]

Official sources said that before leaving for Washington, Armando Linche, head of the IMF delegation, told them that the IMF directors were not interested in having the delegation return to Honduras because of the Honduran Government's steadfast opposition to the proposals outlined in the IMF letter of intent. [passage omitted]

Bank President Warns of IMF Negotiation Danger
FL0905160589 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA
in Spanish 6 May 89 p 3

[Report by Faustino Ordonez Baca]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa—Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) President Gonzalo Carias Pineda warned yesterday that the IMF letter of intent "is a very dangerous document," and that if Honduran negotiators are not careful, "they could fall into a trap" set by the IMF representatives that could lead to a devaluation of the lempira.

The letter of intent is the basis for the signing of agreements with international financial organizations.

The BCH president said that the negotiations with the IMF envoys came to a standstill when discussions centered on the kinds of measures that should be adopted to reduce the fiscal deficit by 100 million lempiras and what should be classified as essential products.

Honduras is trying to include in the list of essential products things like medicine, milk, fertilizer, oil, spare parts, machinery, and other products that are paid for in dollars. [passage omitted]

"The letter of intent is a very dangerous document that has to be carefully studied because it represents a commitment that Honduras will make with an international organization," Carias Pineda said.

"BCH officials are making sure that no traps are set or that other things are done that would later lead to the devaluation of our currency," Carias Pineda added.

"A single word could be dangerous, and that is why we want to be very clear. The letter of intent must be worded properly and reviewed by lawyers so no mistakes are made," Carias Pineda said.

The BCH president stressed that the Honduran Government must not allow the establishment of a parallel market because "3 or 4 months after a country decrees the establishment of a parallel market, the IMF demands a currency devaluation."

"And we do not want to fall into that trap," Carias Pineda stressed. [passage omitted]

PNH Condemns Political Incidents in Panama
FL1205170489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video
in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 May 89

[Communique issued by the National Party of Honduras (PNH) Central Committee in Tegucigalpa on 11 May]

[Text] In light of the recent political incidents in Panama, the National Party of Honduras Central Committee makes the following statement:

1. The PNH sent delegates to observe the elections held in Panama on Sunday. The PNH delegates also acted as representatives of the Human Rights Commission.

2. The commission witnessed the massive democratic fervor of the Panamanian people who began gathering at voting places before 0600. According to the law, the voting process should have begun at 0700; however, it did not begin until 0900 or 1000, causing the normal unrest among the voters.

3. The Panamanian ruling party had six representatives at each voting table while the opposition had only three. The election officials at the voting centers were followers of the ruling party. During the process, several international observers and members of the press were expelled from the voting centers while others were arrested.

4. When the voting process concluded, only one tally sheet was drawn up at most of the voting centers. The tally sheet was delivered to the so-called National Vote-Counting Board by delegates of the ruling party. The National Vote-Counting Board is made up of government sympathizers. Meanwhile, the opposition was not given a copy of the tally sheet.

5. The commission witnessed that the vote count showed that the opposition received 80 percent of the votes and the progovernment candidate received 20 percent of the votes. They also observed that many Panamanians were not able to vote because their names did not appear on the voting lists or because their names appeared on lists

in other towns. Ink was not used during the voting process and members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] voted while armed and in uniform. They voted even if their names did not appear on the voting list.

In light of the FDP's outrageous behavior toward the Panamanian people, the beating and injuring of the opposition party's presidential and vice presidential candidates, and, especially, in light of the government's decision to annul the election results, the PNH Central Committee condemns these antidemocratic actions and hopes that, in the near future, human rights will be reestablished in Panama and that the Panamanian people's sovereign will to choose their own government will be respected.

Tegucigalpa, 11 May 1989

Social justice with democracy!

National Party of Honduras Central Committee

Nicaragua

Bush's 'Excuse' To Mobilize Troops Decried
FL1205213789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
12 May 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Hands Out of Panama"]

[Text] With the deployment of an additional 2,000 soldiers to the Canal Zone, President George Bush will increase the U.S. military presence in Panama to 12,000 men. This action also sets off an international alarm in light of a possible and senseless aggression against the Panamanian people.

Bush's excuse is the same one that has been used by the United States for the past 150 years to mobilize its occupation forces: "protect the lives of U.S. citizens" and overthrow an "undesirable" government, today in the name of democracy, yesterday in the name of the Standard Fruit Company.

All this hypocritical and pseudomoralistic uproar against General Manuel Antonio Noriega does not hide the real purpose of the campaign against Panama which is to recover the perpetuity rights over the canal and strengthen U.S. control of the hemisphere from this geostrategic territory.

This, then, is neither a moral problem nor a problem of one man. It is a political and military problem, and the sovereignty of all of Latin America, not only that of Panama, is at stake. It also involves the most grotesque return to traditional U.S. gunboat diplomacy, with Bush, following the footsteps of fellow Republican Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), ready to give the victory cry: "I took Panama," so as to wipe out the failure of the 2 years of siege forced upon Panama by his predecessor and mentor, Ronald Reagan.

Bush has taken for his own Teddy Roosevelt's motto that "to get ahead, one has to speak softly and carry a big stick." That is why he would like us to believe that "the Panamanian crisis is a conflict between Noriega and the people of Panama" in which the "United States is on the side of the Panamanian people." It is interesting to note that he has not sided with the Salvadoran people, who are abused daily by a regime supported by death squads and a brutal and fascist army.

Bush is going to have a hard time trying to deceive the Latin American people or to get the nations of the continent to act against the principles that protect them, although he might seek—and might be able to obtain—the complicity of certain governments so as to attack and ravage a fraternal country.

U.S. Objectives in Panama Criticized
PA1205144389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
10 May 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Who Would Benefit From Fraud in Panama?"]

[Text] Everything seems to indicate that the Yankees have not left anything to chance to ensure that President George Bush's "prophecy" that the elections in Panama will be "fraudulent" will come true.

It is rather a self-fulfilling prophecy, because in February, according to TIME magazine, Bush signed a secret presidential order authorizing the CIA to channel \$10 million to the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] for its election campaign. ADOC is the Panamanian version of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board due to its status as an opposition organization sponsored by the United States.

This financial support and the disturbances and irregularities reported yesterday have cast a shadow on the vote count and have aggravated Panama's political climate after an election that was calm and orderly. Alleging "fraud," the United States has created doubt and international uncertainty, upon which it plans to justify the use of force against Panama."

It is possible some Panamanians are not very happy with the situation Panama is enduring and may not be thrilled by either of the two candidates as far as their ability to respond to all the expectations and needs of the nation. However, it is only up to the Panamanian people to decide when, how, and for whom will they change their leaders.

Panamanians should be allowed to freely and sovereignly elect their rulers. However, from the moment a foreign power meddles in the internal political affairs of another country, calls on the armed forces to stage a coup d'etat, finances opposition activities, and finally extorts

and threatens the entire nation if the foreign power's candidate does not win, there is actually no free electoral process. This is because the process has been corrupted by the meddling.

The sponsoring, pressure, and threats reduce the legitimacy of the opposition candidate and simultaneously lend more legitimacy to the candidate of the government in question. Thus, Panamanian voters are between a rock and a hard place, because the United States is the only one that will benefit by having elections under such conditions—no matter who wins. Panama loses both ways: If the National Liberation Coalition wins, it will earn intervention; if ADOC wins, the country loses. The opposition is the U.S. alternative, not the Panamanian people's alternative. The logic hidden behind the "prophecy" of fraud is that the United States has two ways to recover the CANAL [preceding word in upper case]: peacefully through the election of a subservient government, or through this government's violent installation in power through an intervention justified by "fraud."

After reporting the "irregularities" to Bush, Representative John Murtha and Senator Bob Graham yesterday maintained that the United States has not ruled out any option, "including the possibility of military intervention to force the removal of General Noriega." With well-known imperialist naivete, Graham revealed that the U.S. Government intended to "internationalize the fraud issue," and for this purpose it needs the help of some Latin American countries so the action against Panama is not an isolated action taken by the United States and has certain legitimacy.

Other congressional leaders have recommended that the United States void the Canal Treaties by which Washington promised to return control of the Canal to Panamanians in the year 2,000. Therefore, it is clear that, as Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said: The United States is creating a climate conducive to a military intervention in Panama."

Latin American peoples and governments must not take part in this maneuver against the sovereignty, self-determination, and right of the Panamanian people to the Canal.

No one has given the United States the right to supervise foreign elections or decide the destiny of an entire country. The true hoax concerning Panama is the alleged Yankee democratic concern aimed at carrying out a new plunder of Panama.

President Ortega Comments on European Tour
PA1205150989 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
11 May 89 pp 1, 10

[Text] Bonn—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has stated that his tour through Western Europe, which is about to conclude, has been a 100 percent success because of the support he found for the Central America peace process.

Daniel Ortega said that this is a good time for putting an end to the conflict in Central America because the international community supports efforts in that regard, and many European governments are backing the efforts Nicaragua and the other Central American countries are making to put an end to the war.

The Nicaraguan president said he has found much backing from the West European countries regarding his plans to participate in the international conference on economic aid to Nicaragua that begins today in Stockholm.

After stating that the United States has tried to persuade the West European governments not to participate in the conference, Ortega said he is sure most of those governments will participate.

The president said: "The idea is to let the Central American countries themselves implement the peace process in Central America with the support of Europe and without U.S. hindrances."

On Tuesday in Hamburg, Daniel Ortega concluded his visit to the FRG, where he met with the top leaders of that country. From there he traveled to Ireland, the last leg of his tour.

Regarding his official meetings with FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Ortega said that they had opened new possibilities for promoting relations between Managua and Bonn.

Regarding his meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Daniel Ortega said: "I gave her my opinion and she gave me hers. She was not well-informed." "The purpose of the trip was to establish a dialogue," he noted.

The Nicaraguan chief of state reiterated the importance of West Germany, Spain, Canada, and a Latin American country participating in the international mechanism for the verification of the Esquipulas II peace plan.

Nicaragua, he said, will present at the Central American foreign ministers meeting, which will take place at the end of this month, a proposal for establishing organizations and mechanisms to verify that human rights are being respected, and these organizations should be composed of specialized international institutions (the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, the UN Commission for Investigations on Missing Persons, and others).

Daniel Ortega said that, generally speaking, he found that the European countries he visited were well disposed to participate more actively in the Central American peace process and to give Nicaragua economic assistance.

Returns, Holds News Conference

PA1405161489 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
1450 GMT 14 May 89

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters at the Protocol Room of Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...minister and friend. On behalf of the Nicaraguan people and Government, I wish to express thanks and congratulate you for your government's successful initiative in holding the first international conference on Nicaragua's economic situation. The Stockholm conference begins a new phase for the support of special economic measures adopted by the Nicaraguan people and Government that encountered unanimous support among the participants.

In the political arena, this program, which is supported by patriotic workers and businessmen, complements the steps Nicaragua has been taking to comply with the peace plan that must ensure full democratization and respect for all human rights in all Central American countries.

We hope the U.S. Government, which was invited to this conference but did not attend, will change its policy and join this international initiative that contributes to peace and stability in Nicaragua and the Central American region.

I wish to underscore the efforts made by all comrades who participated in this international effort, because we had to visit so many countries and places in such a short period of time that we slept an average of 2 or 3 hours each day. There was great discipline among the entire delegation; each member fulfilled his duty by contacting the assigned sectors during the entire tour.

We are satisfied with this effort. The ties established with governments such as the FRG's are very important, because we have made qualitative progress in the area of communications. The welcome we received was quite incredible. The communication I managed to establish with Mr Kohl is very important, because we are sure it will make it easier for the FRG Government to become more active in helping the Nicaraguan people. The FRG Government participated in the Stockholm conference.

As for Mrs Thatcher, our objective was to meet with her to discuss issues of mutual interest and to inform her however slightly about the situation, because she only receives information from the United States. We achieved our objective. We will immediately contact all these governments to assess the meeting that just took place on 11-12 May in Stockholm. I repeat, we believe it was very successful. Any questions?

[Reporter] The next meeting you mentioned will seek the same objectives?

[Ortega] The same objectives; we will follow up on this.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]?

[Ortega] We already obtained... [Ortega changes thought] Nicaragua needs \$250 million to implement the plan. We have already obtained \$50 million. That money will help to support the program we are implementing in this country: To prevent a collapse of our economy and to protect workers and producers. This money will strengthen the plan.

[Reporter] Aside from what the Higher Council of Private Enterprise did and what the U.S. Government has been doing, [LA PRENSA Board of Directors Chairwoman] Mrs Violeta Barrios sent a letter to each head of state of the governments of the countries you visited. What influence did such letters have? What was the real influence of this meddling by [word indistinct] elements?

[Ortega] This is the first time I am hearing about that; it was uneventful, because I knew nothing about this. I am learning about this now. I met with heads of state; I met with kings, prime ministers, and presidents—none of them mentioned this.

Thank you. [applause]

President Ortega To Seek Reelection in 1990

PA1305031689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0154 GMT
13 May 89

[Report by Jose Zaldua]

[Excerpt] Managua, 12 May (AFP)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will seek reelection in the general elections scheduled for 25 February 1990 in Nicaragua, an influential source within the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) reported today in Managua.

The source, who chose to remain anonymous, told AFP that the FSLN has decided to reelect the presidential ticket made up of Ortega and Sergio Ramirez, used in the November 1984 elections. "The only thing pending is the date" when the official announcement of the candidates will be made, the source added.

The government party will also nominate Commander Carlos Nunez for Legislative Assembly (Parliament) president, a post he now holds.

The source also revealed that internal government party polls have revealed the FSLN's election plans. The ideological debate on the Sandinist revolution has been toned down—shelved "but not buried."

Also, the opposition is engaged in a heated debate to draft a common platform and to select a candidate for the 1990 elections.

Recent polls in Nicaragua have shown that Violeta Barrios, director and owner of the newspaper LA PRENSA, would be the ideal person to run against Ortega, while Liberal Party leader Virgilio Godoy appears to be the opposition's strongest contender for the vice presidential candidacy, according to the same polls.

In past weeks rumors have been rife about internal squabbles within the FSLN over the presidential nomination. Rumors had it that Henry Ruiz, foreign trade minister and FSLN Directorate member, was one of Ortega's contenders.

Political sources even speculated that the alleged disputes over the selection of the FSLN presidential ticket were related to rising concern within some Sandinist factions over the "direction taken by the revolution" and the government's concessions in the peace negotiation process, "which have endangered the socialist nature of the revolutionary process."

However, the source AFP consulted said that the tensions prevailing in the FSLN leadership "were not due" to the revolutionary strategy, but were related to "tactics."

Within "purist" FSLN circles, Ruiz portrays the image of an "unredeemed guerrilla," of the strongman who does not bow to pressure and who "does not take one step backward."

Consequently, according to reports, Ruiz is likely to take the helm and to set the Nicaraguan revolutionary process back on a course "more in keeping" with the socialist model. [passage omitted]

Opposition Demands Dialogue With Sandinists
*PA1505050189 Paris AFP in Spanish 0408 GMT
15 May 89*

[Text] San Jose, 14 May (AFP)—The Nicaraguan opposition, which held a meeting in San Jose over the weekend, decided to insist on a dialogue with the Sandinist government in order to achieve "a fair election process."

In the final communique issued at the meeting, the civic opposition in exile asked the democratic governments and forces of the world "to support them in their quest for democratization, peace, and liberty, which are the necessary conditions for national reconstruction and reconciliation."

In addition, the communique expressed a willingness "to sponsor an agreement among the entire opposition to select a single slate, platform, and candidate."

According to the document, the opposition will demand that the Nicaraguan Government comply with all the commitments that were established in Esquipulas II, "immediately establishing full freedom of expression and a general amnesty."

Finally, the opposition urged the OAS member countries to issue a resolution at their next meeting acknowledging Panama's sovereignty as expressed through the elections, in which the opposition received the majority of votes.

Panama

Further Reportage on Post-Election Reaction

People Ready To Fight Invasion
*PA1205195389 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1750 GMT 11 May 89*

["In-depth" commentary read by unidentified announcer]

[Text] The newly adopted White House policy toward our country bears the seal of characteristic U.S. arrogance while defining the United States' imperialist nature in the contemporary world. The measures the current U.S. Administration announced yesterday are really halfway toward an armed intervention that is on its way to becoming a full-scale invasion. To launch the invasion, an order from the U.S. President will suffice. In a matter of seconds, hundreds or thousands of Yankee marines will land on our territory, and they will receive immediate support from the U.S. soldiers who are in Panama. All this is in accordance with a distorted Panama Canal security policy.

While honing its hypocrisy and cynicism, Washington is also honing its interventionist methods. For that reason, unlike other invasions, the United States is complementing the one it is preparing with diplomatic consultations with area governments. Those consultations are nothing more than political pressure laced with economic elements, with which the United States exerts its hegemonic pressure on the hemisphere. Although the current U.S. President wants to portray himself as more prudent in matters of aggression against other countries, that does not mean he is less of a reactionary than Mr Ronald Reagan. It just so happens that the White House resident wants to hide appearances better than his predecessor.

The intimidation of the Panamanian people is a copy of lethal pages in the history of U.S. policy toward Latin America, hampering international coexistence. U.S. power may achieve an immediate military victory by killing thousands of Panamanians. Later, as history undeniably shows, the U.S. occupation of Panama will bring the United States a new Vietnam, as has happened elsewhere when major powers try to defeat and crush the dignity of the people. Today's world is not the same as the 1960's when the United States could impose with impunity its will over the free will of nations.

Panama is not alone now in the community of nations. Even if it were, nationalist patriots would fight to the last man to defend our people's sovereignty, because what we lack in weapons we more than make up for in courage and dignity. Nationalists are not fooled. We know very

well traitors who sold out to U.S. interests would joyfully welcome a Gringo invasion. We fully realize the Gringos' local allies will run to give a warm welcome to the Yankee marines, as these soldiers fire at Panamanians. Far from frightening us, their treason reinforces our patriotism. Their servile submission to the imperialists reaffirms our conviction to fight until the death to defend the Panama these treasonous Judases offend.

The U.S. stance toward Panama confirms that our nation's historical destiny continues to find the United States is its chief obstacle, as has been the case since 1903. This attitude, which the U.S. President has adopted as a personal attitude, indicates that Panamanians are called on to wage campaigns that will once again test our status as a people ready to be free, sovereign, and independent. Once again, we will not cheapen the sacrifice of those who preceded us in this struggle and, through their bloodshed, showed the way to defeat the arrogance and haughtiness of U.S. imperialism. Until final victory! Until 2,000 and beyond!

Committee Contests Annulment
PA1205154789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA
DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 May 89 p A-11

[Text] The Panamanian Human Rights Committee yesterday filed a petition requesting the abrogation of the decree issued by the TEP [Panama Electoral Tribunal] "by which the 7 May 1989 elections were declared null."

The document sent to the TEP president by Osvaldo Velasquez [president of the Human Rights Committee] said that the annulment of the elections "also deprives the Panamanians indefinitely of their right to elect their representatives to the Executive and Legislative Branches for the next 5-year government period to begin on 1 September 1989."

Among the arguments presented to TEP by the Panamanian Human Rights Committee to justify its petition is the fact that noncompliance with certain constitutional rules cannot be regarded as justification to suspend the elections.

The note adds that the people's will was expressed through "the massive turnout of the Panamanian electorate at the voting tables." The Panamanian Human Rights Committee sided with the opposition by stating that "the great majority of votes" were cast "in favor of the ADOC [Civil Democratic Opposition Alliance] candidates."

Another argument used was that declaring the elections null "is depriving the Panamanian people of their sacred right to elect and be elected."

The document was delivered by the Panamanian Human Rights Committee to the TEP's General Secretariat at 1220 yesterday. At a news conference held afterward, the

committee distributed for publication a list of names of people wounded, killed, missing, or arrested during the past few days, that is, since 7 May.

According to the list, 16 people were wounded, 3 killed, 10 are missing, and approximately 135 were arrested, including five minors.

Endara To Continue 'To Fight'
PA1205133489 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1245 GMT 12 May 89

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Panama City; date not given —recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We visited Panamanian President-elect Guillermo Endara in his room at the Paitilla Hospital, where he is staying after he was brutally beaten by the Dignity Battalions. Through Radio Impacto, Mr Endara has a statement for the country.

[Endara] Fellow citizens: We have fought and won. We fought peacefully and civically. We voted and received an overwhelming 75-percent majority of the votes. There is an attempt to snatch our victory by voiding one of the most impressive election results in our country's history. And we will not allow it.

Just as we have been fighting, we will continue to fight. Just as we voted en masse, we will defend our victory en masse. As soon as I leave this bed, I will again take to the streets to defend this victory, as I did before and will do henceforth.

Panamanians, the world is watching us. The fight will continue until final victory. Thank you.

[Reporter] How do you feel?

[Endara] I am told almost all my problems will take a little rest to allow my body's healing process to work. I had high blood pressure and a low pulse. Parts of my body responded faster than others. Apparently, I have a minor eye problem. I am told everything will improve with rest. Anyway, I am under constant observation.

[Reporter] How long do you think you will need to rest?

[Endara] I was told this morning it will take 4-5 days. It may be sooner or later. It depends on how things develop.

TEP President News Conference

PA1205163489 Panama City Telecinco Television
in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 May 89

[News conference held by TEP President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez with the national and international media at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kant] I am Fernando Kant from Channel 4 [Circuito RPC Television]. According to the law, the executive can hold power for only 5 years. In this regard, Article 289 calls for new elections to be held. Are there plans for new elections before 1 September?

[Pulice] Fernando Kant, I will answer you as one Panamanian to another. The important thing now is for peace to prevail in our country. We must prevent people from being killed in the streets. That is what the Electoral Tribunal has done. It has prevented... [changes thought] More decisions will be made later. The decision to nullify the elections introduces a new ingredient in a situation that has been exacerbated daily since the 7 May elections. We are not only talking about yesterday's demonstrations. There has been interference. As I said before, there has been foreign interference, which has led people to take to the streets and to erect barricades; to throw pieces of wood on the streets and set them on fire; and to shoot at each other and promote violence. In addition, the TEP did not get all the material it was supposed to get. A great many things took place after 1700, when the polls were closed on 7 May.

[Martinez] I am Mario Martinez from CRITICA. You had talked earlier about charges that were filed at the electoral attorney general's office. Could you tell us exactly where they were filed, and are there other similar cases?

[Pulice] The document I just read to you is from San Blas. You may obtain other documents at the electoral attorney general's office.

[Martinez] The TEP has up to 3 days to nullify the elections. [word indistinct] the annulment of the elections?

[Pulice] We would have wanted everything to end the way we had planned it from the beginning. Unfortunately, the incidents forced the TEP to remain in permanent session. Irregularities began to be reported all the way from the voting tables to the electoral circuit vote-counting board. There was also violence in the streets. Here we have all these reports and we have met with the vote center coordinators, who were responsible for the organization of the different centers throughout the country. According to these reports, there was interference by foreigners who prevented the work from being done at the voting tables, the circuit vote-counting boards, the district vote-counting boards, and the community vote-counting boards.

Unfortunately, this caused chaos throughout the electoral organization. They can tell you precisely about their actions in each one of their voting centers. We have all these reports here. We can provide all this information to you through the director of the Electoral Organization Office, who has a two-page summary containing everything that took place throughout the nation. The TEP based its decision on this. We can say there were a large number of people wearing t-shirts saying: Human Rights. These people witnessed the elections at voting tables; they watched how the ballots were handled; and they watched the officials who were working at the electoral-circuit vote counting boards. Many of them were board members and contributed to all this. They helped break up our vote-counting boards.

Therefore, I think those \$10 million or more were distributed in this country. The U.S. visitors came to supervise how the money was being invested in this peaceful country.

[Reporter] I would like to know if those charges include pressure on the national vote-counting boards or on the members of the Electoral Tribunal?

[Pulice] I believe the national vote-counting boards will be able to talk to you about this. Therefore, you can talk to them directly. I can tell you one thing: I personally accompanied former President Carter at the beginning, when he was really interested in learning about our electoral development.

Carter, along with the two honorable magistrates with me here, visited the National Vote-Counting Board so he could learn about it. That is as far as we got. However, I learned that Mr Carter later went to the National Vote-Counting Board with a somewhat impolite attitude. I can tell you he also visited the Electoral Tribunal when I was at the presidency, and he was welcomed by the two magistrates with me here and the secretary general. Carter was very impolite. I believe Dr [TEP Magistrate] Correa can talk to you about Carter's visit to the TEP.

[Correa] Yes, Carter did indeed make an unannounced and quick visit to the TEP. He immediately came to the offices of the magistrates, specifically to Magistrate Chen's office. We accompanied him there. He told us there was electoral fraud in progress. He said the fraud was being committed at the National Vote-Counting Board, and he said we, the magistrates, had the duty to stop that. The fraud consisted of the forging of the vote tally sheets of Circuits 6-1, 6-2, and 6-3. We told President Carter that the National Vote-Counting Board is an organization that performs electoral duties independent of the TEP. We told him that the TEP should later review the documents of the candidates who might have been adversely affected. We told him that for the time being we could not interfere in the actions of the National Vote-Counting Board.

In addition, the National Vote-Counting Board is completely independent and has the authority to approve, count, and announce election results. At no time could the TEP intervene. This bothered Carter. He even told us we were responsible, because we did not intervene concerning the decisions of the vote-counting boards. I would say that I was personally taken aback when he called the TEP president a liar because Carter had been told that there were ways to check on the board's actions. I told him that as soon as the vote counting began, we could be only the administrators and organizers of the elections. We could at no time make a prejudgment of the situation.

PRD News Conference

PA1205215589 Panama City Telecinco Television
in Spanish 1315 GMT 12 May 89

[News Conference with Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) legislator Rigoberto Paredes and other PRD members at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 11 May—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified speaker] The Panamanian people are aware of the aggression being waged against our country since June 1987. This aggression worsened during the election campaign and went as far as financing and supporting the opposition. This aggression (?divided) the voters. This aggression also specified that if the opposition did not win, it was due to fraud. This goes against the peoples' rights to independence and self-determination. Despite the economic and psychological aggression, Panamanians went en masse to the polls. In a disciplined and orderly fashion, over 80 percent of the Panamanian people participated in the elections. The TEP invited observers to the elections. They cannot deny what they saw: The people participated in the elections with a civic spirit and with great determination.

Some observers meddled in TEP's activities and, on 7 May, they wanted to change around some party poll representatives and they directly supported the opposition candidates. Even before the vote counting had started, some observers were talking about a winner. After only visiting a couple of polling places, some observers were talking about fraud. We know that we won, and we know that we will win again. We are willing to participate in another election, because we believe we Panamanians are capable of defining our own position.

Many countries and many envoys have proposed negotiations to Commander Noriega. He was offered money and a solution to his personal problems. However, he answered in a dignified and patriotic way. President Bush is a religious man. How can he promote an invasion? How can he send an aircraft carrier when our country has no battleships? Panama has just a couple of boats that serve the coastal communities. President Bush has virtually created a state of war, and 1,800 soldiers will be arriving today. No Americans are being attacked

in this country; there are no wounded Americans in this country. All we want in this country is peace and to prevent intervention by another country. We Panamanians are capable of solving our own problems. The PRD will continue in alliance with the people's organizations that believe in and support national independence.

How is it possible that TEP members at the voting tables were bought? How is it possible to speak of democracy when two tally sheets were received: one from the opposition and one from the TEP members? How can one speak of fraud when votes were bought [by the United States Government], when the Panamanian people were intimidated? The U.S. Government pressured and psychologically intimidated the Panamanian people. We are a defenseless, peace-loving people. We will not allow the destruction of peace; we will fight for peace.

[Reporter] Could you tell us specifically what the United States did to alter the election results?

[Unidentified speaker] It is no secret to anyone that, for the past 24 months, the U.S. Government has subjected our country to an economic, political, and military aggression. Despite this situation, we decided to go ahead with our elections, because we thought it was the civilized way of settling a political dispute among Panamanians. However, the United States intervened in the elections by financing—as President Bush himself said—the opposition's presidential campaign with \$10 million.

During the campaign, other actions revealed that it was not just \$10 million worth of financing, but that U.S. funds were being used to buy party poll representatives, TEP officials, and to obtain tally sheets. Opposition candidates and their entire propaganda campaign were financed with funds coming from the north; the opposition tried to commit an election fraud promoted by the U.S. Government to install a docile government in Panama that would guarantee the United States what it is not entitled to under the commitments it made in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

[Unidentified speaker continues] The elections held by the Panamanian people on 7 May have been marred by U.S. Government intervention and by the officials who came here representing U.S. political parties and institutions and then proclaimed fraud even before the votes were counted.

Therefore, we can clearly see the U.S. Government's intentions to distort the truth, which is that this country is taking the path toward democracy. We have evidence showing this outrageous intervention, this outrageous financing by the U.S. Government. The opposition was given the money that the United States has in escrow, but which actually belongs to the Panamanian people. This money was given to the opposition for use in its election campaign. We estimate that the U.S. Government delivered over \$35 million to the opposition for its use in this election campaign.

[Marlene Fernandez] [Words indistinct]

[moderator] That was Marlene Fernandez from CNN, a U.S. television network. Legislator Rigoberto Paredes will answer the question.

[Paredes] I think that we must answer this question from this very good-looking young woman from CNN. Nobody has said that the elections were annulled because the PRD or COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] were losing. When the results favorable to COLINA were announced, the opposition—using paramilitary forces also paid for by the Yankee embassy—took to the streets to create problems for the people. According to the resolution issued by the TEP, the decision to cancel the elections was made precisely to prevent bloodshed and to prevent confrontations among the Panamanian people.

The United States has actually declared war on us, or have all of you Latin American people and North Americans with eyes and ears—and, as the Bible says, he who has eyes should see, and he who has ears should listen—not realized that? A war has been declared because funds have been sent and threats of an invasion have been made. Why is President Bush now sending troops to Panama? Are we going to receive them with open arms and with love because we Panamanians are a loving people?

Bush is sending aircraft carriers and helicopters. Even before the elections were held, that man outrageously said that if we won, the elections were invalid. How about that? That man is punchy [preceding word in English], I believe. That is one way of intimidating the people. He said that if Duque won, he would not recognize the Duque government. Where in the world have you ever seen such a thing? Tell me, where? In the United States? In the Soviet Union? In Japan? Where? In Guatemala? Cuba? Where does a president of another country dare announce beforehand that he is not going to recognize the government if this or that candidate wins? You want more intervention than that?

How can you ask if the TEP annulled the elections because COLINA was losing? COLINA won the elections! We won the elections, just like we are winning the war against the United States! Miss Fernandez, we are at war. Tell the world about that. The United States has been trying to topple us for 2 years to control the canal, to keep the military bases, to stay in Panama, and to keep the people from being proud, free, and sovereign. The United States has not been able to do that. The United States wants to strangle us economically. Do you not see that? Where are the human rights you people talk about? Why come and observe the elections here and then ignore the \$10 million, the \$20 million, the \$30 million? Why do you not talk about that? Is it that the United States thinks that it is going to continue living under the blessed Manifest Destiny that gives it the divine privilege to rule the other peoples of the world?

It is hard to believe that you people are here to gather information, and that while some report truthfully on what they see, others [words indistinct]. Here in Panama, we are angered by the press' attitude, which has come here specifically to see how the aspirations, hopes, and ideals of a country are destroyed. For crying out loud! You are citizens of another country; and you would not allow this to happen in your own country. Nevertheless, you come here—many of you—to see how we are being wiped out. No, we will not be wiped out!

Radio Ondas del Caribe Closed

PA1205155789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1432 GMT 12 May 89

[Report by (Heladio Rivas), news director of Radio Ondas del Caribe—recorded]

[Excerpt] Good morning, Latin American listeners. We want to thank Radio Impacto for this opportunity to report to the world that at noon today [11 May] Radio Ondas del Caribe reporters (Rene Alfonso Briceno), (Ramon Stagg), and another person who was with them were arrested by the governor of Bocas del Toro Province. This is the second time the governor has taken action against Ondas del Caribe. Some time ago, he took the radio station's crystal and we never saw it again. Now, he has again attacked our radio station and has removed the crystal for a second time and arrested those who were reporting the truth.

I would like to ask [Bocas del Toro Governor] Gabriel Monsalve if he thinks he can hide the photographs appearing in all newspapers of the world on the beatings by the so-called Dignity Battalion, who are actually the henchmen of the regime.

Radio station colleagues: The time has come to break the gag of the regime. Use the media you have available. Today, the radio station of (Rene Alfonso Briceno) has been closed. This is true, but the fatherland will be grateful for the work he has done. Bear in mind that victory is very close at hand. [passage omitted]

Arias Calderon Calls for Protest

PA1205161789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1502 GMT 12 May 89

[Message from Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice presidential candidate for the ADOC, in Panama City; date not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ... to demand respect for 7 May elections and to protest the repression against the people, which has left a toll of killed, injured, and many arrested. We are inviting all the people to gather at their churches—at church's of every denomination—from 1000 to 1200 on Sunday, 14 May. We are inviting them to attend to the services held at that time and to gather around the churches to express our demand, in each parish and neighborhood and in the

peaceful manner that has distinguished our struggle. We have already had elections, and we have already won the elections. The only path to a solution is to recognize the election results.

It is important that on Sunday everybody in his parish gather around his church from 1100 to 1200 with other Panamanians from the same parish and same neighborhood. Among Panamanians, from neighborhood to neighborhood, from parish to parish, from area to area, we must voice our demand that the results of the 7 May elections be respected, that all those arrested be released, that the violent incident where people were killed and injured should never be repeated. We are also asking people to bang their pots every night at 2100 to make the will of the Panamanian people known. We want to rid ourselves of the dictatorship and establish a democracy with Guillermo Endara as its first president, since he was elected by over 70 percent of the people on 7 May.

These are two specific and peaceful means to express our feelings as Panamanians and our determination to turn Panama into a democratic country.

Gonzalez Relays 'U.S. Wish'

PA1205171089 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1610 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Madrid, 12 May (EFE)—During a news conference, Spanish Government spokeswoman and Minister Rosa Conde reported today that as requested by U.S. President George Bush, Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez transmitted to General Noriega the "U.S. wish for the election results to be respected in Panama."

In view of the crisis that has broken out in Panama, George Bush "made a phone call to" Felipe Gonzalez to "promote a rational solution" and asked him to inform Noriega of the "U.S. position," the details of which were not explained by Conde despite the reporters' insistence.

Conde said that "the contact between Panama and Spain through diplomatic channels concluded yesterday" when the United States publicly announced its decision to send more troops to the Canal area and after Noriega did not reply to the most recent U.S. requests.

According to Rosa Conde, the last telephone contact between George Bush and Felipe Gonzalez took place on 11 May and "at this time, the contacts are considered to have ended."

Conde was especially interested in maintaining that the Spanish Government had not played the role of "mediator." Conde said: "It was an open conversation through diplomatic channels" to transmit to Noriega the "U.S. position, but we have not mediated in any specific proposal."

The conversation began "with a phone call by President Bush to President Gonzalez to promote a rational and peaceful solution to the Panamanian conflict," as President Gonzalez "has good personal relations with Gen Noriega."

Rosa Conde denied that during the conversation President Gonzalez talked about the possibility of Noriega's going to Spain, and she asserted that "no decisions have been made" to that effect.

During the initial contact between the Spanish Government and Panama, Gen Noriega "seemed to be well disposed" toward a solution, but—according to what Conde added—after declaring the annulment of the 7 May elections, he "made no further reply" to the Spanish requests.

Although Bush and Gonzalez have talked at least four times over the phone this week, Rosa Conde insisted on saying the Spanish president played "a very limited role."

City Streets Appear 'Calm'

PA1205182689 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
1733 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 12 May (REUTER)—According to a U.S. Southern Command spokesman, the first contingent of U.S. reinforcement troops sent by President George Bush to protect U.S. residents in Panama will be arriving in Panama today. The troops are being sent as a result of violence stemming from the recent elections in that country. [passage omitted]

The Noriega regime has not yet made any comment on the U.S. measures, which are part of a campaign staged by Washington to forcibly remove the military leader from his position. The United States imposed economic sanctions on Panama 1 year ago, after Noriega was indicted in U.S. courts for drug trafficking.

Noriega has not been seen in public since before the elections, and government officials are not answering telephone calls.

Panama City's streets appear calm today and there is little military presence. Many businesses have kept their shop windows boarded up and traffic is lighter than usual. [passage omitted]

School Postponement Announced

PA1205190689 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 1804 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] During a working meeting, top Education Ministry authorities, after giving guarantees for the 1989 school year, announced the postponement of classes. Education Minister Rolando Murgas Torrazza was asked about the announcement.

[Begin recording] [Murgas] In the last 2 days, we have been holding meetings with our personnel, who have held consultations and have listened to opinions. There are serious doubts regarding the school year beginning next Monday.

As you may recall, the school year is supposed to begin on Monday with a teachers meeting, and classes were scheduled to begin on 22 May. In view of what is going on—the foreign threats—we believe it is advisable to postpone the beginning of the school year, which in no way means the school year has been cancelled. The duty of the Education Ministry is to guarantee the beginning of the school year. In the next few hours, we will issue a communique in which we will state the official Education Ministry position regarding when classes will begin.

[Reporter] Does this mean the beginning of the 1989 school year is guaranteed but no date has yet been set?

[Murgas] Currently, we do not have an exact date. We have great difficulties, which were even mentioned to us by the parents, who are not sure whether or not it is advisable to begin the school year next week in view of the situation in the country. We are aware that part of the normal duties performed by the government is to open schools and to have classes, but we must also listen to the parents' concerns. [end recording]

'Blowing Up' Radio Impacto Urged

PA1205211089 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1931 GMT 12 May 89

[From the "Panama Today" commentary by Jose Santos Rodriguez and Lucho Delgado—live]

[Text] [First unidentified speaker] We are going to ask our friends in Costa Rica, those in underground movements who live in Costa Rica, to blow up Radio Impacto, to carry out an attack against Radio Impacto. That station has become a mouthpiece used against the aggression.... [corrects himself] I mean in favor of the aggression against Panama. This morning, one of the things that Priest Jose Maria Correa...

[Second unidentified speaker, interrupting] ...a Spanish citizen...

[First unidentified speaker, interrupting] ...a Spanish citizen from Spain, who works in Cristo Rey Church, said was that he prayed to God to punish General Manuel Antonio Noriega. We believe this was an unacceptable and completely stupid remark made by this priest, who, besides being a priest, is a politician...

[Second unidentified speaker, interrupting]...a frustrated politician who became a priest.

[First unidentified speaker, interrupting] ...who is trying to meddle in Panamanian affairs, which we cannot tolerate. From this free tribunal of truth, justice and

democracy for the Panamanian people, we ask national authorities to expel this priest from the country because he is a bad priest; he is a real renegade. He is a mercantile priest, and we must find out how much he got from the \$10 million that the gringos distributed; this priest is nothing else than that. For the benefit of his candidates, he is saying things he definitely knows nothing about; he is ignoring the real situation in the country.

[Second unidentified speaker, in a low voice] Where did you get that information?

Opposition General Strike Set

PA1205204589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1946 GMT
12 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 12 May (AFP)—Opponents of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime announced a general strike for an indefinite period of time. This strike will begin on Tuesday [16 May] in Panama to demand "respect for the results" of the annulled 7 May general elections.

A spokesman of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), who asked not to be identified, told AFP that "the strike will coincide with the call for an urgent OAS meeting," scheduled for Wednesday to analyze the Panamanian situation.

The spokesman said that a decision to call this strike was made early today and it will be backed by the Association of Panamanian Industrialists, the Chamber of Commerce, and the main chains of stores and supermarkets, as well as by hospitals and fuel distributors.

In addition, Ricardo Arias, ADOC's candidate for first vice president, urged ADOC followers to gather at the country's churches on Sunday and to bang pots and pans in protest beginning today.

Assembly on Election Alternatives

PA1205233489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2304 GMT
12 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 12 May (DPA)—PRD legislator Rigoberto Paredes said that following the annulment of the 7 May Panamanian elections, the Legislative Assembly is analyzing "the alternatives, bearing in mind that it is virtually impossible to hold new elections before 1 September," the date on which President Manuel Solis Palma's term in office ends.

Paredes said that legislators are being "consulted" to determine the option that is most expedient for the country, adding that consultations are also being held with other government agencies.

One of the alternatives Paredes mentioned is the creation of a provisional government junta to take office on 1 September, and the establishment of a national constituent assembly, to include the creation of a lower chamber.

The legislator said that another option under consideration is to change structures within the Executive Branch in order to adopt a system whereby there will be a prime minister—a system several countries have—and in which the official [the prime minister] is forced to resign if he does not have the Legislative Branch's support.

All the alternatives "being discussed" call for a prior reform to the national Constitution, Rigoberto Paredes said. The Panamanian opposition has rejected the Electoral Tribunal's decision to annul the last elections and are demanding that their candidate, Guillermo Endara, be recognized as the winner.

U.S. Intervention History

PA1305013789 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 2320 GMT 12 May 89

[Luis Manuel Martinez commentary: "The Carnage"]

[Text] Upon returning to his native Barcelona, Cataluna, Spain, from Panama, Spanish Communist Party Deputy Anthony Gutierrez Diaz—who was an EEC observer during the Panamanian elections—said that U.S. intervention in Panama would be true carnage. Gutierrez was part of a delegation made up of seven European deputies representing parliamentary groups who observed Sunday's general elections.

Gutierrez said: It is necessary to prevent an intervention in Panama, because the Panama Defense Forces are prepared to fight, and all the people with whom I have spoken are willing to join that fight. The circumstances under which the elections were held were influenced by the U.S. interference this country has witnessed since February, involving impressive amounts of cash running to millions of dollars. Washington cannot use the circumstances under which the elections were held as a pretext to continue to send troops to Panama, where U.S. citizens walk happily along the streets and no one bothers them. They enter stores, talk with the shopgirls working in every store, enjoy themselves in the bars, and are part of the community.

Spanish Deputy Anthony Gutierrez Diaz asks: Where is the threat to U.S. citizens in Panama? When have they experienced a difficult time in this country? While reading in the tranquillity of my home at midnight, I recalled the scenes of 1965, when—to stop Communism from taking over the Dominican Republic—the U.S.S. Boxer's steel entrails began to vomit marines and more marines. One month later, the beautiful Dominican capital was littered with corpses. It was necessary to assassinate a defenseless nation to stop Communism.

When was the Dominican Republic endangered by Communism? When have the lives of Yankees, of gringos who live a few blocks from us been endangered? When can we dedicate a few minutes to consider the theory that Panama threatens U.S. security?

These arguments have been used since the turn of the century. This was the language used by Teddy Roosevelt and repeated, word by word, by the Republicans. This is the old rhetoric of the empire, which does not catch up with time, which does not adapt to our current situation.

The Democrats had a formidable palliative during Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration, namely, the New Deal, which meant new treatment for their people and the good neighbor policy applied to our countries. However, deep down it [Roosevelt's administration] was dominated by the spirit of conquest and domination, but at least it used another language and had a different attitude.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy came later, and he declared war on the poverty and illiteracy of his hemispheric neighbors, calling for an end to illiteracy and poverty through the Alliance for Progress. However, all that the Republicans have done is impoverish Latin America, overwhelm it with foreign debt interest payments, maintain the foreign debt, and act as collection agents for the banks, while strangling our people.

Reagan disdained us, regarding us as a nation with about 1 million inhabitants, not even comparable to the population of New York, a Panamanian people who would get lost in California, a bunch of blacks, Indians, and unimportant people. Reagan believed that the canal belonged to the United States and was unwilling to give it up; the United States will do whatever is necessary to not give it up.

The campaign against Panama was suspended in September, when the U.S. election campaign began, which paved the way to the White House for George Bush. Bush had pledged to reactivate the campaign against Panama, and, in February, he approved a \$120 million budget—stop saying \$10 million were given to the opposition, because \$30 million were spent between 2 and 7 May. The U.S. bulldozer began to move: We cannot let the elections give a democratic legitimacy to the government, because this would leave us without arguments to continue to impoverish Panama. We must lead that country to chaos and disaster and later appear as the generous parents who give a hand to their disgraced son.

Noriega, Solis Silent on Options

PA1305015989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2358 GMT
12 May 89

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Text] Panama City, 12 May (EFE)—The final decision about whether to hold new elections is in the hands of the State Council, a consultative body composed of Manuel

Solis Palma, minister in charge of the presidency; cabinet ministers; and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who has yet to announce his choice regarding the alternatives the regime is considering—i.e., a compromise [concertacion] or a hard-line position.

Two days after the TEP's annulment of the elections, the regime has not yet made clear when or how it will call new elections, and its two leading figures—Solis Palma and Noriega—have made no statements or appeared in public.

Thus far, only the "civilians" in the regime have spoken, but in such a way that they "alarmed" those who advocate a negotiated solution to the crisis.

Prominent PRD leaders have rejected the opposition's offer of a "compromise" and have called for a rallying of the "patriotic forces"—which automatically excludes all opposition members, who have been called "turncoats" before and after the elections.

However, a diplomat who has been closely monitoring the situation did not attach much importance to these statements, which came on the heels of the election annulment and the show of strength by the opposition at the polls. He said that "others who are higher up think that this cannot be settled without a dialogue."

In this regard, the report that a meeting was held today—attended by civilian "intermediaries" and at which, for the first time, the two "sides" sat around a breakfast table to learn directly of each others' positions—assumes significance.

The meeting, which was revealed by a government source, indicates that "not all doors are closed" following the annulment of the elections.

The absence of a decision by the regime itself leads most observers to believe that basically "everything depends on the general," who, to date, has opted to remain silent "because he realizes that it is up to the parties to clear up matters," one of his close aides told EFE.

From an institutional perspective, the voice of the general—and through it, that of the FDP—is expressed through the body at which all civilians and military meet: the General State Council, in which Noriega participates with full rights and in which other senior FDP General Staff officers occasionally participate.

Another diplomat regards the opposition's insistence on negotiating with the military the day after its candidates were mauled by the regime's paramilitary followers as "very significant."

A diplomat who insisted on anonymity said: "One side knows it won the game at the polls and the other feels strong on the streets and in the government."

Other observers feel, however, that the "temptation to take more radical positions" is just around the corner, and that certain indications that the regime and the PRD itself are ideologically veering toward "anti-imperialist" positions seem to confirm this theory.

According to this interpretation, certain representatives at the State Council are leaning toward a "hard-line" policy and a solution that will give priority to "patriotic interests," without much regard for a democratic system based on [the existence of] political parties.

What nobody knows thus far is what direction will be taken by Noriega, whose voice is decisive at the State Council.

Some high-ranking sources insist, however, that "the general sided with the moderates," and that he was a decisive factor when the final decision was made to annul the elections rather than to take an even more extreme step.

These opinions are hard to confirm; however, they easily fit Noriega's political personality, because he has always tried to act as mediator among the regime's various factions.

In any event, if there is one thing on which all observers agree it is that "he has the floor" now more than ever, following what has been a genuine "electoral trauma" for the regime.

Those who claim to know the general say that "now, more than ever," he will act in accordance with the opinion of his closest FDP aides, particularly the 19 officers who make up the Strategic Military Council [Consejo Estrategico Militar]. This body, which was created last year, plays a decisive role when it comes to setting the "Army's political-military policy."

Although the functions of the State Council are consultative, observers feel that it has played a decisive role as "the organ for political orientation" since the beginning of the crisis in 1987.

The TEP's decision to annul the elections was preceded by meetings and contacts at the highest TEP echelons. It is most likely that the State Council will have to review, before anything else, the opposition's offer of a "compromise" between civilians and the military.

Duque Accepts Annulment

PA1305152889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
13 May 89 pp 1, 5

[Statement by Carlos Duque, presidential candidate of the National Liberation Coalition and president of the PRD: "The Fatherland Belongs to All Panamanians"—date and place not given]

[Text] The PRD notes with concern and sorrow the acts of provocation and violence perpetrated by some groups before and after the vote-counting and the annulment of the 7 May elections.

The PRD particularly deplores and disapproves of the armed attacks against several members of the Panama Defense Forces and two PRD members, the physical attacks on two prominent opposition figures, and the regrettable death of a fellow Panamanian.

Torrijists must defend our political and patriotic principles firmly and decisively, without falling into provocations or using means of struggle that are at odds with our democratic principles and the citizens' morals.

The PRD has objected to the decision by the Electoral Tribunal to annul the elections, which chiefly harmed our party. However, the PRD had to abide by the decision, realizing that its chief goal was to guarantee the free expression of the people's will, something that was discredited on this occasion by the ostensible meddling in the country's affairs by the U.S. Government, which sought to distort the election process to achieve the selection of a puppet regime.

However, the democratizing process must continue with full respect for the country's independence and the people's sovereignty. The PRD again calls for calm and coexistence among Panamanians to create a climate of dialogue and understanding needed to resume the democratizing process, without letting intimidations, meddling, or foreign manipulations corrupt this process again.

The Panamanian fatherland belongs to all its children, who must coexist responsibly and peacefully in the country. Acts of provocation, disregarding laws, and violence contribute toward the justification of foreign intervention—which we must also reject—and hamper the coexistence among citizens, which is necessary to provide an adequate democratic solution to the defense of our sovereignty and national independence.

Once again, Torrijists must be at the head of the struggle for dialogue, consultations, and agreement and for cooperation among all groups that reject foreign intervention and want the country's total democratization.

PRD President Carlos Duque Jaen.

ADOC Rejects Annulment

PA1305171289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA
DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 May 89 p A-3

["Manifesto" issued by the ADOC in Panama City on 12 May]

[Text] In light of the TEP's cynical and unjustifiable annulment of the 7 May elections, the ADOC hereby expresses to the local and international public, through its candidates elected to the Presidency and Vice Presidencies of the Republic:

A. TEP, which coauthored a thwarted fraud intended to scorn the people's will, lacks the moral authority to annul the aforementioned elections.

B. Furthermore, TEP lacks a legal basis to decree such an annulment. It has resorted to weak and treacherous excuses, such as alleging votes were purchased and election organizations lacked the proper documentation to allow them to proclaim which candidates won the elections.

C. The progovernment sector is the only one responsible for any obstruction to the election process. Moreover, all foreign observers invited by TEP to witness the elections and the Catholic Church have publicly recognized ADOC's victory.

D. Only the National Liberation Coalition candidates committed the crime of buying votes. Unfortunately for them, they managed to buy votes, but not consciences. Therefore, they did not even benefit at the polls from these bought votes.

E. ADOC holds genuine documents and tally sheets serving as irrefutable proof of its candidates' undisputed victory as the people's choice for the various positions contested in the elections.

F. ADOC consequently demands the recognition of its candidates' legitimate victory. Thanks to the massive and patriotic support of the Panamanian people, ADOC's victory has not been marred by the coercion and the various frauds staged prior to, during, and after the elections by the military dictatorship with TEP's active participation.

G. The only reason TEP wishes to annul the elections is because the overwhelming and unquestionable evidence of ADOC's victory is impossible to hide.

H. Despite the shrewd ambush on 10 May that resulted in a painful death toll mourned today by Panamanians, ADOC reiterates—as it has throughout its political campaign—its fervent willingness to make a patriotic concerted effort toward national reconciliation and recovery. It reiterates it will work toward the creation of the conditions needed to remove all of us, especially the neediest groups, from this economic and political stagnation into which we have fallen as a result of a dictatorial and corrupt government our country does not need.

I. ADOC thanks all the democratic governments in this hemisphere and in other hemispheres—especially the democratic governments of our fraternal Latin American nations—for their generous solidarity and their recognition of ADOC's unquestionable victory. ADOC encourages them to urgently take efficient steps to help the Panamanian nation reach the conciliation warranted by the difficult and historic moments the Panamanian people are experiencing.

J. ADOC bestows its most fervent recognition on the Panamanian people for the massive, generous, and spontaneous support they expressed during the polls, which the people continue to express during these difficult times. ADOC also ratifies its commitment to rescue the Republic's institutions to guarantee that its axioms—justice, liberty, and democracy—remain in force.

ADOC

Panama City, 12 May 1989

Guillermo Endara Galimany, president-elect

Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president-elect

Guillermo Ford, second vice president-elect

FDP on U.S. Troop Arrival

PA1305044389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0353 GMT
13 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 12 May (EFE)—A FDP intelligence officer today maintained that the arrival of 1,880 U.S. soldiers and Marines in this country is a "test run for a huge military operation in Nicaragua."

The officer, who asked not to be identified, belongs to the G-2, the FDP's intelligence and security service. He told EFE that "it makes no sense to send this many soldiers to Panama, where there are already thousands of U.S. soldiers." "The arrival of the U.S. troops is closely related to the Nicaraguan situation and is a test run for operations in other countries," he added. [passage omitted]

The officer said the FDP "are not worried" about the arrival of the reinforcements and added that, in his opinion, "the more important U.S. action will come during the upcoming OAS meeting." The continent's foreign ministers will meet at OAS Headquarters in Washington on 17 May to study the Panamanian crisis following the annulment of Sunday's elections and this week's violent incidents.

The officer said "this U.S. pressure (the arrival of U.S. troops) could change the situation in favor of Panama." He rejected the U.S. argument that the troops will defend U.S. personnel and property in Panama and noted: "In the past 72 hours there has been no incident involving U.S. residents in Panama."

When asked about Wednesday's detention for several hours of two U.S. military attaches, the FDP officer said: "We delivered them immediately to Colonel (Allan) Cornell," their superior. He said the U.S. officers justified their presence near an opposition demonstration when they were arrested by saying they had "to tell the embassy the truth about what was happening."

The Panamanian officer also rejected the U.S. argument that the reinforcement of U.S. troops in Panama is for the purpose of "defending the canal." "No one is attacking the canal," he observed.

The G-2 officer pointed out that the U.S. Marines and soldiers "arrived in camouflage uniforms, as if they were ready to go into battle, and carrying 30-pound rucksacks." The officer said some of the U.S. vehicles that arrived today in Panama along with the troop reinforcements "have never been used in the tropics." He noted: "These vehicles have a new weapons system that includes a 25-mm rapid-fire cannon."

Opposition Leader on Aftermath

LD1305090689 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish
0700 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama is submerged in a sea of confusion about the solution to the deep-seated crisis created following the presidential elections of last Sunday. [passage omitted]

Arias Calderon, the opposition candidate to the vice presidency of Panama, gave his view in exclusive statements to RNE on a hypothetical coalition government with those who support the Noriega regime and on the role of the leader of the armed forces in such a government.

[Begin Calderon recording] I believe that before anything else the first step has to be the recognition of the triumph of the elections held on 7 May. The people of Panama voted. The people of Panama chose its governors and it is now up to all sections of Panamanian society to respect the popular will. We have said that we need an understanding between civilians and the military which embraces several points, among them the fixing of a set period for the holding of the post of commander-in-chief by virtue of which General Noriega steps down as soon as possible and not later than 1 September this year. [end recording]

[Studio] According to Arias Calderon, the opposition does not agree with Washington's decision to send more troops to the Panama Canal, even though it has a right to do so by virtue of the Torrijos-Carter agreements.

[Begin Calderon recording] We believe that the fundamental point for the international resolution of, or the international help for the resolution of, the problem of Panama does not lie in the sending of troops, but rather in the coordinated political action of the democracies of Latin America, Europe, and North America, so that by means of very firm and very speedy action of a political and diplomatic nature the regime of General Noriega is made to realize that the international community will only accept respect for the democratic self-determination of the Panamanian people. [end recording]

Ritter on Upcoming OAS Visit

PA1305172889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish
1645 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Talking to the National Information System, Panamanian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Jorge Eduardo Ritter discussed his views on the upcoming meeting of the OAS on the Panamanian situation.

[Begin Ritter recording] The Venezuelan ambassador to the OAS yesterday submitted a letter to the OAS Permanent Council president requesting a meeting for today. The purpose of this meeting, which must be taking place right now, is to request the OAS Permanent Council to summon the OAS foreign ministers to a meeting on 16 May to examine the situation in Panama.

This is basically the information we have. Our ambassador—our alternate ambassador to the OAS, Mr Russell—has been instructed by the Foreign Affairs Ministry how to proceed in this case. We favor the OAS' examining the situation in Panama, but it should do so based on OAS Charter violations and not on a country's domestic problems, which concern that country alone. In other words, if the OAS discusses the situation in Panama, it should do so based on the fact that Panama is facing an imminent military aggression, is suffering from the effects of economic aggression, and has been constantly attacked by the United States. If the OAS wishes to discuss the election problem, its discussion must center around which OAS Charter principles were violated, such as the principle of self-determination and noninterference in a country's domestic affairs. Before talking about Panama's domestic political process, we must talk about how financing was used to distort Panama's elections and about U.S. open meddling in Panama's election process. We must discuss everything of concern to the OAS in a conflict between two countries. However, an examination of a country's domestic situation goes beyond OAS jurisdiction and possibilities. [end recording]

Nonaligned Movement To Hear Case

PA1305221689 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1650 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera, who is also the president of the Panamanian delegation to the upcoming Nonaligned Movement meeting, has told the National Information System that he will attend the upcoming Nonaligned Movement meeting to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, to denounce the imperialist aggression to which Panama is being subjected.

[Begin Cabrera recording] In view of the serious actions taken by the U.S. Government against our country and international legal order, we believe it is clearly necessary that we denounce those actions before the Nonaligned Movement in a patriotic and brave manner and with the strong voice that is typical of our nation. We did the same thing during General Torrijos' time. Gen Torrijos traveled abroad to internationalize Panama. He opened the door for Panama in the Nonaligned Movement. He also internationalized the Panama Canal problem.

We have a great responsibility before the Nonaligned Movement, because of the support that movement has given Panama. We have always considered it very

important to keep the nonaligned countries well informed of the development and implementation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and the relations between Panama and the United States. [end recording]

Comments on U.S. Treaty Intentions

PA1305234189 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1650 GMT 13 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U. S. true intention is to abrogate the Canal Treaties. In that regard, statements by some U.S. officials are further proof that for the United States the problem is neither the 7 May elections nor General Manuel Antonio Noriega, but control of the Canal after the year 2,000.

Press agency reports datelined in Washington state that Republican Senators Connie Mack, the infamous Elliott Abrams, and Fred Ikle, a former high-ranking Pentagon official, vigorously requested the abrogation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Ikle stressed the United States must not lose sight of its long-term interests.

In addition, it was reported that a telephone poll conducted by CNN resulted in 89 percent of the phone calls supporting the abrogation of the Canal Treaties and only 11 percent asking for the treaties to be respected.

That situation, combined with the exaggerated delivery of troops and war material to intimidate the Panamanian population, are significant proof of the true U.S. intentions, which are not to return the Canal to its true owners in the year 2,000 and to perpetuate the existence of their military bases on Panamanian territory.

Assassination Plan Alleged

PA1305181389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1740 GMT
13 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (AFP)—Panama has experienced 1 week of postelection violence after the nullification of the 7 May elections by the TEP. Meanwhile, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the officer who has become the center of the conflict in this country, has momentarily disappeared from the Panamanian public scene.

Where is Noriega? This is the question everyone asks. Meanwhile, official sources state there is a plan to assassinate the commander in chief of the FDP, which is why his personal security has been redoubled.

The official source indicated Noriega and the FDP staff have held lengthy meetings in the last few days to "find a solution" to Panama's crisis. At the same time, opposition leaders have been meeting to decide what actions will be taken to "defend the election victory that was seized" from them by the nullification of the elections.

According to the reports of the Panamanian intelligence service (G-2), the alleged assassination plan includes the assassination of progovernment candidate Carlos Duque, whose protection has also been augmented.

The opposition will be calling on the Panamanians to participate in a strike for an indefinite period next week. This will coincide with an urgent meeting of the OAS to evaluate the "grave" situation in Panama because of the international protest over the nullification of the 7 May elections.

Meanwhile, in a clear step to pressure the Noriega regime, the United States yesterday began to transfer 2,000 troops to Panama to reinforce the nearly 10,000 soldiers stationed in the canal area. The Noriega regime has charged there is danger of a U.S. military intervention.

"They will not destroy us, and Bush will have to commit genocide, because we will not surrender," government Legislator Rigoberto Paredes told AFP. The secretary general of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party [passage indistinct].

'National Agreement Board'

PA1305212589 Paris AFP in Spanish 2009 GMT
13 May 89

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (AFP)—The ADOC trusts the OAS will decree [word indistinct] against the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega next Wednesday, a top ADOC leader said today.

The OAS has summoned its foreign ministers to a meeting next Wednesday to examine the situation in Panama since the annulment [words indistinct]. Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC candidate for the first vice presidency, said the foreign ministers meeting is "very positive" and hopes there will be "a concerted action on the part of the continent to impose a quarantine against the regime and force it to respect the election results," which, according to the opposition, granted it an overwhelming victory.

Meanwhile, Arias said the opposition once again summons its active members to gather in the country's main churches on Sunday to "demand respect for the will of the people" and to condemn "government repression."

Panama City experienced 2 days of violence on Tuesday and Wednesday this week that resulted in at least 3 deaths and the arrest of over 200 opposition members.

In this regard, Arias condemned the "brutal physical aggression" against the ADOC opposition ticket composed of Guillermo Endara, Arias, and Guillermo Ford, who were beaten by paramilitary groups on Wednesday during a peaceful demonstration.

Despite Endara's protest claiming a victory in the elections, partial tallies provided by the TEP as of last Wednesday showed Carlos Duque, the progovernment COLINA candidate, with a large lead.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the country's main business groups, which are grouped in the National Council for Private Enterprise, have been meeting today, Saturday, to examine future actions to defend the election results.

Arias reiterated that the possibility of calling for a national strike [words indistinct] the ADOC's victory is still at stake.

In the meantime, sources close to the government stated that over the last few hours the regime has been contemplating the possibility of forming "a national agreement board" composed of two civilians, one of which could be Endara and the other, Duque, along with a representative of the Panama Defense Forces.

The ruling PRD—the main force in COLINA—today deplored "the acts of provocation and violence some groups engaged in prior to and after the elections and their annulment."

After assessing the incidents related to the elections, the PRD regretted the "aggression" with firearms, during which, it asserted, [word indistinct] "Panama Defense Forces members" and two PRD members were victims of the physical aggression against the two main ADOC leaders, Endara and Ford. One Panamanian citizen died.

In conclusion, the PRD called for "serenity and coexistence" among Panamanians "to facilitate a climate for dialogue and the necessary understanding among Panamanians to resume the democratization process."

Today, Panama City seemed quiet and in an atmosphere of apparent calm despite the arrival since 12 May of the first groups of soldiers who are part of a 2,000-soldier contingent sent by President George Bush to "reinforce surveillance in the Canal Zone and guarantee the safety of the U.S. citizens and their dependents living in Panama.

In answer to questions about a possible U.S. action, Arias said "we have not requested any troops" and "we do not believe a military action would contribute to the solution of the crisis; we believe Noriega must be persuaded.

ADOC Reschedules Strike

PA1305205389 Paris AFP in Spanish 2012 GMT
13 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (AFP)—Panama's ADOC today called for an indefinite general strike against the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega to begin on Wednesday. This was announced by the group's candidate for first vice president, Ricardo Arias Calderon.

The paralyzing action is to include the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP); the Association of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP); the Chamber of Commerce and Industries; the Panamanian Chamber of Industries; and the construction, banking, and physicians trade groups.

Although the pressure tactic was initially announced for Tuesday, 16 May, Arias said Wednesday was a better day to begin, as it coincides with the urgent meeting of the OAS to review Panama's critical political situation.

The objective of the strike is to pressure the regime to recognize the opposition's "victory" in the 7 May elections, which were subsequently annulled.

Arias Calderon on OAS Meeting

PA1305214389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2023 GMT
13 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (EFE)—The Panamanian opposition hopes the OAS, which will meet next Wednesday, will force General Manuel Antonio Noriega to "recognize the people's will" stated in last Sunday's elections, which were annulled by the TEP.

The statement was issued today by Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice presidential candidate, during a meeting with journalists at Paitilla Hospital, where presidential candidate Guillermo Endara was admitted after being attacked on Wednesday during a demonstration.

Ricardo Arias hopes that "the support offered the opposition by the international community will become effective" during the OAS meeting.

Referring to the announcement of a 24-hour strike to protest the annulment of the elections, Arias said he will meet in the next few hours with ADOC presidential and vice presidential candidates Guillermo Endara and Guillermo Ford, respectively, to discuss the issue.

The OAS can, according to Arias, send a mission of foreign ministers to Panama to notify the FDP that the hemispheric organization and the countries that represent it reject the elections' annulment.

Arias said another option would be for an OAS declaration "to serve as the vehicle within which we can reach the agreement we have been demanding for weeks, and which has yet to be attained."

The agreement's goal is to achieve "Panama's full and effective democratization based on 7 May's electoral results," ADOC's first vice presidential candidate stated.

On Wednesday, TEP annulled the elections, arguing that "numerous irregularities in the electoral process made it absolutely impossible to proclaim any of the candidates the winner."

According to Arias, "a political and diplomatic quarantine would be declared against the Panamanian regime" if the FDP "are unwilling to accept the OAS proposal."

Arias said: "One of the options is to agree with Latin American democratic countries on a political and diplomatic action to force Noriega's regime to acknowledge the people's will. This is the right course of action." Arias said he is "satisfied because the United States has accepted the proposals made by Latin American countries."

He also said ADOC "is not contemplating" having a "foreign" government as an alternative to the one that should be headed by Endara.

He pointed out, however: "If between now and 1 September, when the new government is scheduled to assume office, circumstances demand a special form of government, we would consider such a government."

Arias, first ADOC vice presidential candidate, also said the decisions U.S. President George Bush has made are "very important."

Guillermo Ford, who also was injured during Wednesday's disturbances, added: "We will appeal to the people's awareness. Let us not look at this simply as a stoppage or strike. This would not be the right approach. The people's awareness must be appealed to by every peaceful means. Nevertheless, we are also considering a strike, which is a peaceful measure. Still, such an action would be taken without violating the people's consciences."

Over the past few years, private enterprise and the Civic Crusade, an organization formed by opposition political parties and business unions, have declared at least four general strikes to force Noriega out of the FDP leadership, but without success.

Arias Calderon on New Elections

PA1305215189 Paris AFP in Spanish 2053 GMT
13 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (AFP)—This weekend, General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime has been contemplating the possibility of creating a provisional government junta and calling for new elections within 1 year, although opposition leaders outrightly rejected that possibility.

A PRD leader, who asked not to be identified, said the junta of "national agreement" would be [words indistinct] commitment of not renegotiating the Torrijos-Carter Canal Treaties and no modification of Law 20, which serves as the charter of the Panama Defense Forces.

However, vice presidential candidate [word indistinct] that such a proposal is unacceptable.

Arias said: "We are not willing to go to new elections. We won the 7 May election by an overwhelming margin, and the only thing we would agree to is a provisional government created in accordance with the Constitution, but one that would end its mandate on 1 September. [quotation marks as received]

ADOC on Possible FDP Agreement

PA1305224389 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
2115 GMT 13 May 89

[Report by Paul Iredale]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 13 May (REUTER)—A spokesman announced today that the Panamanian parties opposing strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega have announced a general strike for Wednesday to protest the annulment of the presidential elections that the opposition claims it won by an overwhelming majority.

Opposition spokesman Anel Beliz told REUTER that the strike, which will coincide with the OAS emergency meeting in Washington to discuss the Panamanian crisis, will also include demonstrations at noon in the capital.

The opposition leaders say more than 150 people have been arrested in Panama since last Sunday's elections. [passage omitted]

The general strike announced for Wednesday will try to pressure Noriega to recognize the opposition's victory, but opposition leaders are being cautious given the possibility of more violence similar to the brutal attacks on the opposition candidates during this week's street demonstrations.

The opposition's second vice presidential candidate, Guillermo Ford, told journalists today that he wanted to avoid further confrontations.

Ford's face showed bruises, and he had stitches in his cheek. The wounds were caused by the blows he received on Wednesday from members of the Dignity Battalions created by Noriega.

"We will not ask our people to face those animals. We will not lead them to carnage," he said.

Ford, who visited presidential candidate Guillermo Endara in the hospital, where Endara is recovering from a head wound he received during the protests, said the opposition does not rule out the possibility of an agreement with the FDP to end the crisis.

Nevertheless, he asserted, there will be no agreement "behind closed doors." [passage omitted]

Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice presidential candidate for the opposition, said he had a list with the names of 157 persons who were recently arrested and said there

are unconfirmed reports that 230 have actually been arrested. He added that all legal efforts to see the arrested people have failed. [passage omitted]

Noriega's government, which is usually quick in replying to criticism, has remained silent amid the uncontrolled international crisis that has surrounded the elections.

The military leader has not been seen in public since the elections, and his ministers have abstained from issuing any comments.

Noriega Following 'From Interior'

PA1305230289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2214 GMT
13 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (EFE)—A prominent officer who is said "to have received instructions from General Manuel Antonio Noriega," commander in chief of the FDP over the last few hours, has said that Gen Noriega is following the country's crisis "from the country's interior."

The officer told EFE: "Noriega is well and calm." However, he did not mention the general's exact location and added that "he gave us instructions to normalize the situation in Panama City and to establish checkpoints."

In answer to questions about the channels Noriega uses to give those instructions, the officer said that "he is in constant touch with his General Staff and his closest advisers" from his unrevealed location.

The officer added: "Torrijos used to do the same thing," referring to Gen Omar Torrijos, Panamanian military chief and "strongman" between 1968 and 1981. Torrijos did, in fact, have the habit of confining himself to Panama's peasant areas whenever there was a crisis in the country.

Like Torrijos, Noriega has the habit of constantly moving around from one place to another whenever there are critical situations in the country, partly for security reasons.

Asked about rumors circulating in the country that there is tension within the FDP, the officer flatly denied them and stressed that "the troops are no longer confined to their barracks" and that the duty officer [jefe de plaza] (high-ranking duty officer) is commanding them "as usual."

The officer added that as proof of the normal situation within the FDP, "this afternoon our band will give a concert at the Causeway," a strip of land containing a manmade boulevard that links Panama City with some islands in the Bay of Panama.

The military installations where the Panamanian officer made the statements to EFE were not protected as they had been over the last few days, and the officers were not carrying their weapons in their belts as they were last Thursday and Friday.

This week, Panama has experienced moments of great tension as a result of the 7 May elections, which were annulled on 10 May; the violent election disturbances; and the arrival on 12 May of approximately 2,000 U.S. soldiers sent to Panama to reinforce the almost 11,000 soldiers permanently stationed in that country.

Reaction to Bush Statements

PA1405004089 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 May 89

[Station commentary: "Citizens Be on Alert"]

[Text] This afternoon, U.S. press agencies released a fiery call from President George Bush encouraging both Panamanian civilians and military to start up violent actions with the alleged intention of getting rid of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is a victim of U.S. disinformation.

Bush's fiery statements are further proof of the way in which the United States is interfering in Panama and in the lives of Panamanians through all means and resources with the intention of leading us to violence, fratricide, and the country's destruction. In that way, the United States will justify its invasion of Panama, turn us into its colony, and abrogate the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Citizens be on alert. President Bush's call from Air Force 1 intends to encourage traitors and their mercenaries in the country. They are already circulating a call for a general strike, which is not being supported by the majority in the country.

President Bush's statements have further intentions. The United States is ready to enter Panama. Only when Panamanians begin killing each other and destroying the country, and when the United States finds a way to justify its actions before the international community, then and only then will it invade Panama and finish us off.

Citizens be on alert. President Bush has a simple plan. He will violate the treaties with his invasion, which will be carried out after the battle the United States is encouraging us to wage among ourselves. Bush will then tell the world that to defend the Canal and the life of U.S. citizens living in Panama, the United States will conduct a massacre similar to the one conducted in the Dominican Republic.

Citizens be on alert. If we make the mistake of giving them an excuse to do that, the U.S. troops, soldiers, tanks, planes, and ships will murder—without taking any risks—all those who are not wearing a U.S. Army uniform.

Citizens be on alert. Everything is not lost yet. If we do not play along with the seditious movement and if we keep the country peaceful and calm, the United States will have to give up its determination to invade us and will not have an excuse to do so and violate the Canal Treaties.

Citizens be on alert. Panamanian citizens, do not forget the price you paid during the seditious acts carried out over the past few months. Do not let unemployment rise further. Do not let the national economy be destroyed.

Citizens be on alert. Citizens, do not play along with the Yankee imperialists and their local instruments, who talk about democracy, freedom, and justice while they, in fact, want to turn us into a U.S. colony and U.S. slaves by destroying the country's dignity, independence, and sovereignty.

Citizens be on alert. Citizens, defend peace, tranquillity, your children's future, and the homeland's sovereignty by keeping calm and not paying attention to those who are desperately calling for the U.S. troops, thus showing the very little love they have for our noble Panamanian people.

PRD Meets To Review Situation

PA1405004889 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 2335 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Top-ranking PRD leaders, led by Carlos Duque Jaen, this morning held an important meeting with PRD electoral commandos at the Torrijos museum-house to evaluate the events surrounding the elections. During the meeting, they analyzed the country's situation and the actions the PRD will take to step up the national liberation struggle.

The PRD directorate agreed to meet with the party's political directorate and national directorate members in the next few hours. The intention is to issue important statements on the political situation prevailing in the country.

In addition, the National Executive Council will call all its members to participate in a united struggle and work drive that will allow national and local leaders to contact the party's rank and file and discuss the crucial situation that continues to prevail in the nation—particularly concerning the announcement of the U.S. troops' invasion of Panama.

Call for Strike Aired

PA1405021789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
0100 GMT 14 May 89

["Call" read by Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice presidential candidate of the ADOC—date and place not given]

[Text] The candidates of Panama's ADOC call on the consciences of all Panamanians to support—throughout the country—the citizens' paralyzing actions to take place throughout the day on 17 May as a way to peacefully protest the disrespect shown for the Panamanian people's will.

We also invite each and every Panamanian citizen to go outside their houses and protest in their streets or neighborhoods in all the peaceful ways they can think of at noon on Wednesday, 17 May.

On Wednesday, 17 May, the OAS will hold a special foreign ministers meeting to discuss the crisis created by General Noriega's dictatorship when it tried to flout the true results of the 7 May elections.

The citizens' paralyzing actions of 17 May are a cry by the Panamanian people's democratic awareness to the democratic solidarity of the Latin American peoples and the entire world.

Through the citizens' paralyzing actions, all the Panamanians who voted for democracy on 7 May will demand respect for our vote.

Similarly, we are also protesting the repression to which we have been subjected and which resulted in death and injury. We also demand the immediate release of over 200 people who have been arbitrarily arrested.

Each citizen, worker, businessman, professional, driver, housewife, and especially each young person can and must support the stoppage in their own way and in accordance with the dictates of their consciences, making the sacrifices that such support entails. The homeland needs us all in these decisive hours.

We make a special call to public employees, the majority of whom voted for us. The regime will be unable to pay your salaries, and it intends to dismiss you [words indistinct] citizens' paralyzing actions [words indistinct] peaceful struggle for their rights.

We ask the FDP members, many of whom also voted for us, not to participate in any more repression against their fellow citizens. The citizens' stoppage is not an attack on the FDP, whose existence we respect and will continue to respect. The stoppage is against Gen Noriega's dictatorship.

The citizens' paralyzing actions to be held on 17 May are the way in which all Panamanians will try to save our homeland.

[Signed] Guillermo Endara, president-elect.
Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president-elect
Guillermo Ford, second vice president-elect

Arias Calderon on 17 May Stoppage

PA1405023689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
0115 GMT 14 May 89

[Interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice presidential candidate of ADOC by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Arias Calderon, in view of the violent incidents that took place last week, don't you think civilians might shed more blood?

[Arias] The stoppage is not a confrontation and does not aim to gather people in rallies. The stoppage keeps people in their homes and neighborhoods. There is no way to repress an entire people who are conducting a sit-down strike. There is no way to repress people everywhere who go outside their homes at noon on 17 May to protest in their streets and neighborhoods. They will not even be repressed in a significant number of places. The citizens' stoppage is a protest without danger of repression.

[Reporter] What time will the stoppage begin, and when will it end?

[Arias] It will last the entire day and will begin when each person's day begins.

[Reporter] Do you [word indistinct] the stoppage will be fully supported?

[Arias] We are convinced it will have very wide support, because we are receiving ideas from all over the country. People are asking us to create ways to do something, as people say.

ADOC's Ford on Situation

PA1405034089 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
0120 GMT 14 May 89

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, second vice presidential candidate of ADOC, by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ford] I would like to take this great opportunity you are giving me to thank the entire Panamanian people for the great support they have expressed for ADOC candidates Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and myself in view of the brutal aggression to which we were subjected on 10 May. In addition, I wish to thank the diplomatic missions accredited to Panama for the kind messages of hope and faith they have sent us and reiterate to the world the unyielding position of the

ADOC ticket, which, despite the outrages carried out by the military dictatorship, is willing to achieve what we offered over 5 weeks ago. We offered to make a concerted national effort between military and civilians so peace can return to Panama in an atmosphere of dignity and decency.

We will not allow intimidation. We believe democracy spoke loudly and clearly. In addition, yesterday the Catholic Church issued a communique that faithfully conveys the feeling of this noble people, whose only hope is to live in peace.

We vehemently call on the Panamanian authorities and people to reflect deeply on our country's future. Our country cannot afford to suffer unnecessary tragedy and mourning.

We also want to offer encouragement to the Panamanian people by telling them that democracy will prevail and that the ADOC ticket will lead this noble people and will not disappoint them. The ADOC ticket will assume the great responsibility assigned to it by the massive number of votes cast on 7 May, which was the peaceful, intelligent, and noble way in which the noble Panamanian people expressed their will.

[Reporter] Mr Guillermo Ford, how would you describe the international support ADOC and the Panamanian people are receiving?

[Ford] It is a rejection of unprovoked violent acts and a realization that the Panamanian problem transcends an internal problem among Panamanians and is reaching an extremely difficult point in regard to international relations. It is serious to admit Panama's current, total isolation as most ambassadors accredited to Panama have been recalled to their countries. That places our country in a difficult and dangerous situation. We, however, believe we still have time to reach a peaceful solution to all our problems.

[Reporter] [Word indistinct] General Manuel Antonio Noriega and in which [words indistinct] between civilians and military [words indistinct] called by ADOC?

[Ford] We believe it is with the FDP member. In Panama, true power resides in the FDP. The military is, therefore, the entity that must make a serious, worthwhile, and frank concerted effort together with the ADOC ticket. We will not make that effort behind the backs of the Panamanian people. We will not negotiate our attainment of power. That is not our desire. We will clearly demand respect for the 7 May elections at all levels. It would be immoral to agree to accept the presidency and vice presidencies of the Republic and betray the genuine winners of legislative and congressional posts. We simply and flatly demand full respect for the people's will.

Arias Calderon on OAS Support

PA1405032489 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
0130 GMT 14 May 89

[Excerpt of news conference given by ADOC first vice presidential candidate Ricardo Arias Calderon at Paitilla Hospital in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Arias Calderon] The most important point of President Bush's statement was the first one. The first point said he was willing to continue waiting for Latin American democracies to adopt a joint political position through the OAS. That is the road that looks the most promising and appropriate for us.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] diplomatic outcry which has arisen [words indistinct] civic opposition?

[Arias Calderon] I believe the support we have received from the Latin American international community, President Alan Garcia, President Carlos Andres Perez, President Napoleon Duarte, President Oscar Arias, President Vinicio Cerezo, the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Uruguay, and Argentina—to mention a few—is extremely important. Latin America has awakened and realized the Panamanian people's situation, and it is willing to act politically and diplomatically in our favor. We also thank [words indistinct] the statement that President [words indistinct] the elections' annulment. We think it is highly significant that the Japanese foreign minister has also condemned, on behalf of the Japanese Government, the annulment of the elections and (?demanded respect) for the Panamanian people's will.

The international democratic community has issued statements advocating our country's democratization and respect for the results of the 7 May elections. We hope the international community's support will become effective in many ways during the OAS foreign ministers meeting on Wednesday. For example, [the OAS] can send a mission of foreign ministers to Panama to notify the FDP that the OAS and the countries it represents reject the elections' annulment. The high-level mission can also serve as the vehicle within which we can reach the agreement we have been demanding for weeks, and which has yet to be attained. The agreement's goal is to achieve Panama's full and effective democratization based on 7 May's electoral results.

Likewise, if the OAS (?finds that) the FDP are unwilling to accept its proposal, the organization could place the Panamanian regime in a strict political and diplomatic quarantine. We hope the OAS adopts a firm and decisive position, because this is the adequate channel for international support.

Conference Denounces Annulment
PA1405165689 Panama City Television Service
in Spanish 1440 GMT 14 May 89

[Communique issued by the Episcopal Conference in Panama City; date not given—read by unidentified announcer]

[Text] Once again in fulfillment of our sacred duty as pastors, we extend our word to Catholics, in particular, and to the Panamanian people in general.

1. After expressing our hopes and fears regarding the elections in our 5 April communique, we urged all—rulers and the governed, candidates and voters, military and civilians—to assume in good conscience their responsibility in the face of this decisive moment for the future of our beloved fatherland. We congratulate our people for the patriotism they showed with their exemplary conduct on 7 May by massively and peacefully going to the polls. A people like that is entitled to live in liberty and to have their political will, so clearly stated, respected.

2. Regrettably, we cannot say the same thing in general terms of our authorities. Veiled or open threats, restrictions of movement, restrictions on free expression, storming and stealing ballot boxes and tally sheets, military and paramilitary mobs attacking property and persons, are a few signs of the flagrant attempts to thwart the people's will.

What moral justification can there be to disperse by means of blows and gunfire men and women whose only crime is to peacefully demand their rights? What moral justification can there be to keep the people in a state of fear by means of mobs fed on hatred and a false sense of nationalism that neither recognizes nor respects the integrity and rights of other Panamanians?

3. Concerning the intimidations and violations, we must register our most vehement protest over the shameless actions against some of our bishops, the clergy, and places of worship: disconnecting telephone lines, cutting off electricity, and surrounding and not granting access to churches, threatening or making public arrests, canceling religious radio programs, and denying spiritual attention to inmates.

Along these same lines, we protest the way in which the house of Panama's archbishop was surrounded on the afternoon of 9 May by military and paramilitary forces that had no qualms about shooting their guns, throwing poisoned water, and beating up or arresting people just because they went to see, were concerned about, and supported their pastor.

We—and the entire world—have also watched with consternation the despicable way in which the opposition presidential slate for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance was basely cornered, savagely beaten, and cowardly affronted at the end of their march at Santa Ana Plaza at noon on 10 May.

The climax of all of this came with the murder of Father Nicholas Van Cleef of the Paulist Congregation, in Santa Marta, David Diocese, Chiriqui Province. Father Nico's death constitutes palpable proof of the contempt for life and human beings some sectors are reaching and of the reckless way firearms are given to people who lack the ability and wisdom to use them.

We subscribe to the statements by the David's Bishopric and Presbyterian Council and Panama's Paulist Brothers. We also reject the disproportionate measures—roadblocks, license plate registration, control on buses, and low-flying airplanes—that kept many of the faithful from attending Father Nico's funeral service.

We were surprised and pained to learn that the Electoral Tribunal voided the recently held elections, basing its actions on the Constitution and the Electoral Code. We believe the reasons and facts given to void them can be overcome, and we regard that decision as a veritable and very serious disrespect of the dignity of all Panamanians. Therefore, we urge—in the name of God, the people's dignity, and national conscience—those immediately and ultimately responsible for the election process to respect the will of the people freely expressed at the polls. Failure to do that would mean bearing the burden of a sin against the fatherland on their consciences.

5. [number as heard] We know we are experiencing difficult times. As we noted in our previous communique, this may be the last chance we have to settle our differences through peaceful means. As pastors, we must be the builders of peace. Therefore, on this occasion, we also offer our best offices to seek—without ignoring the will of the people—the path of reconciliation that will let us live in joy and brotherhood.

To our military brothers, who have the force of their weapons, we ask: Do not use those weapons against a defenseless people whose sole weapon is their firm will to live with dignity and in peace. We reject all violence, no matter where it comes from, because in addition to being against the gospel, it only breeds violence and in the long run it will submerge us in a sea of tears, blood, and sorrow, as we have witnessed in the recent incidents in Santa Ana Plaza.

We ask for the solidarity and prayers of the brother peoples of Central America in particular, and of Latin America in general, so Panama can at last attain victory in the blissful field of unity. At the conclusion of Easter celebrations and on the eve of the feast of Pentecost, we

ask God to generously send down his spirit to the Panamanian people so—strengthened by his gifts—we may yield his fruits of peace.

[Signed] by Msgr Jose Dimas Cedeno, Santiago Bishop, Panamanian Episcopal Conference president; Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath, Panama metropolitan archbishop; and "the rest of the bishops who compose the Episcopal Conference."

Bishops Communique Applauded

PA1405185089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1818 GMT
14 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 May (EFE)—The Panamanian bishops' very harsh condemnation of the Panamanian regime was read today in many of the country's churches and was received with applause from the churchgoers.

The Panamanian Episcopal Conference [CEP] communique condemned the violence suffered by the main opposition leaders, the "murder" of a Netherlands priest, and the "theft and destruction" of vote tally sheets in the 7 May elections.

Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, the opposition's first and second vice presidential candidates, went to several churches, including Don Bosco and Cristo Rey in Panama City, where they heard mass and listened to the CEP communique.

They were applauded and acclaimed by the people, who waved handkerchiefs and chanted "Justice, justice."

The communique, which was distributed by youths in the parishes, entails the greatest condemnation of the regime by the Panamanian Church to date. It condemned "the mobs of military men and paramilitary men who attacked people and property" and "the theft of ballot boxes and vote tally sheets."

At El Carmen Church, one of the most important churches in this capital, the participants gave a standing ovation to the CEP communique, "which must be read in all the masses in Panama on Sunday," as this document stated.

The CEP communique was read during today's homily at the mass televised on a national network by local television channels.

However, the cable broadcast beamed to many Panama City homes was interrupted without explanation during the homily and the Church's 15-minute Sunday "news segment."

At Cristo Rey Church, where the vice presidential candidates attended, the priest harshly criticized a former minister who said the Church "was the same thing" as the opposition.

"Midgets have never reached the heights of giants," thundered the priest, who was applauded by those there.

Young opposition activists also handed out the opposition's "bulletin" with "unofficial results" of the 7 May elections, according to which ADOC had received 247,000 votes and COLINA 161,284.

The TEP annulled the elections on 10 May when, according to official figures, COLINA was winning with the votes counted up to that time.

Two ABC Reporters Detained

PA1405212189 Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT
14 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 May (AFP)—Newspaper sources have reported that Panamanian authorities today detained U.S. ABC television network cameraman Steve Blanco and reporter Carl Hersch in Panama City while they were covering opposition protests at local churches.

Other ABC personnel in Panama immediately headed for the state security office to inquire into the reasons for the reporter's and the cameraman's arrest.

Meanwhile, local authorities today asked several reporters for their press credentials "to see if their papers were in order." About 10 reporters from various nationalities were not permitted to enter the country this week, while 14 others—including four AFP reporters—were expelled after the 7 May elections.

ABC Reporters Released

PA1505014989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0116 GMT
15 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 May (AFP)—After questioning them for 2 hours, Panamanian authorities released ABC Television Network cameraman Steve Blanco and reporter Carl Hersch. The reporters were detained today while covering an opposition protest at local churches, Panama City newspaper sources reported.

After they were released, the reporters said that they were questioned at the security office "to see if their papers were in order." Panama City authorities today asked several reporters for their press credentials. About 10 reporters from various nationalities were not permitted to enter the country this week, while 14 others—including four AFP reporters—were expelled after the 7 May elections.

Rights Commission on Violations

PA1505022389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
2311 GMT 14 May 89

["Text" of Human Rights' Commission "Report on Violations of the Right to Life, Freedom, and Personal Safety"; date and place of issue not given—read by announcer]

[Text] This is a list of names, entitled A Report on Violations of the Right to Life, Freedom, and Personal Safety, which the Panama Human Rights Commission has sent us:

1. Wounded: Ramon Vega; Fernando Arauz Mayin; Francisco Enon Santos; Luis Amor; Guillermo "Cuchungo" Endara Galimani [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADOC, presidential candidate], elected president by the people; [ADOC second vice presidential candidate] Guillermo Ford; Guillermo Quijano; [ADOC first vice presidential candidate] Ricardo Arias Calderon, elected first vice president by the people's vote; Gregorio Humberto Montenegro; Demetrio Villarreal; Octasiano Villarreal; Jorge Porras; Marcos Dominguez; Manuel Salvador Ducreaux; Ronald Reed; Alberto Gonzalez; and Vladimir Garcia—the latter is a minor.

2. Dead: Nicolas Van Cleef, the priest murdered by a Panama Defense Forces [FDP] member in David; Cesar Augusto Cajar; and Alexis Guerra, [Guillermo] Ford's bodyguard.

3. Missing: Luis Ernesto Goff; Mario Goff Galindo, already released; Javier Robles; Jorge Cordos, already released; Francisco Abre, already released; Carlos Aguilar, already released; Roberto Martinez Beitia; Adolfo Martinez Flores; Augusto Antonio Aparicio; Carlos Tejeira; Kenneth Rogers; Mario Salazar; and Amil Caicedo.

4. Detained: (David Rey Espada), for whom a fine was paid but who has not yet been released; Napoleon Franco; Nelva de Franco; Napoleon Franco, Jr.; Tito Afu; Raul E. Gonzalez, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Eustacio Guerra; Kenny Anderson, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Jorge Laino Salcedo, an incommutable sentence has been pronounced; Jackson Banda, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Luis Carlos Franco; Enrique Franco; Enoc Gonzalez; Isaac Gonzalez, a minor; Francisco Sandoval; Jose Luis Moreno, Jr, a minor who has already been released; Amada Rivas Diaz, a fine has been paid but she has not yet been released; Jose Luis Moreno Sr, who has already been released; Selma Leticia Perez; Nelvy Amara Perez, a minor; Cecilia Pineda, a minor; Jorge Gomez; Jose Luis Restrepo; Julio Cesar Caballero; Erick Munoz, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Agustin Gomez, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Jorge Pinzon C., a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Abraham Villanis, a fine has been paid but he has not

yet been released and a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Tilcio Troncoso Chanis, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Humberto Dominguez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Jaime Delgado Rodriguez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Jorge Villalobos, who has already been released; Tulio Delgado, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Narciso Valdespino, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Doris C. de Pinzon, a fine has been paid but she has not yet been released; Alejandro Vendinburg, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Jaime Fajardo; Jose Gil; Franklin Justiniani; Victor Hugo Piedrahita; Alfredo Piedrahita; Gonzalo Gonzalez Colon; Anido Tomas Reyes; Cesar Markoff, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Ernesto Rodriguez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Cesar Rodolfo Castro, a fine has been paid but has not yet been released; Francisco Medina, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Pablo Castro Bernal, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Oscar Martinez Rujano, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Fabian Dominguez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Alexis Aparicio Campos, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Florencio Salinas; a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Jose Munoz Rodriguez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Luis Pineda Aguilar, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Bayardo Camarena, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Luis Gonzalez, an incommutable sentence has been pronounced and a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Ricaurte Diaz Estrada; Rafael E. Charles, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Eulalio Nunez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Florencio Salinas, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Rogelio Achurra, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Alfonso Fernandez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Ruben Jimenez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Jorge Butchell, who has already been released; Reyes Torres, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Alcides Barria A., a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released.

Darrel Richards, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Martin Beltran, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Jack Diaz; Diogenes Ariel Quintero, bail has been assigned; Segundo Flores Jimenez; Primitiva de Gonzalez, bail has been assigned; Rigoberto Lucero; Michael Gomez, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Carlos Franco; Ismael Shirley, who has already been released; Jorge Fierro, who has already been released; Javier Espinosa, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released and a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Nicanor Adames, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Ricardo Morales, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Fernando Ortega, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Candido

Martinez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Jorge Rodriguez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Ruben Beitia, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Abdiel Hidalgo, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Reina Torres, a fine has been paid but she has not yet been released; Yanina Yelena Segura; Mauricio Guadamuz, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Luis Gil Martinez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Javier Stout, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Jorge Gonzalez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Edilberto de Gracia, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Ricaurte Almanza, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Raul Arnulfo Molina, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Roberto Quesada, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Avelino Juarez, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released and a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Elias Almanza, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Abdiel Sagel, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Frederick Rangel, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Evelio Iguala; Ronnie Vega, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released and a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Leopoldo Figida, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released; Daisy de Franco, who has already been released; Juan Carlos Hime; Mercedes Munoz; Alfonso Fernandez; Feliciano Oliveros; Rogelio Achurra; Julio Camargo, a fine has been paid but he has not yet been released and a writ of habeas corpus has been filed on his behalf; Hector Gonzalez Acosta; Jose Mendoza Sanjur.

Virgilio Marciaga Gonzalez; Rosendo Meneses, who was already released; Jose Francisco Quintero; Rafael George Georges; Carlos Pirona; Ivan Rodriguez, who got an incommutable sentence of several days in jail; Cesar Martinez Caballero; Vielka Arosemena de Menendez; Jorge Salinas Sandoval; Miguel Vanegas; Feliciano Olivero, whose fine was paid but he has not been released; Ildefonso Arias Pons; Lionel B. Santiago; Miguella Ulloa, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on her behalf; Adolfo Campos, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Heradio E. Martinez, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Adolfo Campos Sisquema, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Alan Campos, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Eden Rangel Arquinez, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Hernan Guzman; Manuel Salazar; Eddie Ricord; Alexis Vince; Rodolfo Gonzalez Acosta; Jose del Carmen Cruz Moreno; Bernarda Barcasnegra; Juan Sanchez; Jose Montes; Juan de Dios Pinzon; Marco Antonio Martinez; Marcelino Mendoza, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Ernesto Avendano; Cruz Robinson; Nelson Vega, his fine was paid but he has not been released and, moreover, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Juan Carlos Pino; Benedicta Cedeno; Bernard Torres; Alexis Aparicio Campos; Michester Pinto; Lucrecia Ramos; Jose Francisco Quintero; Pedro Antonio Quintero; Jose del Carmen Jimenez; Yedel Rangel Sanchez;

Hector Infante, who was already released; Pedro Antonio Quintero; Luisito Martinez, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Niberto Fillot, who was already released; Alvin Nunez; Rafael M. Nunez; Omaira Montenegro; Olimpo Saez, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Amira Caisadeo De Leon; Omar Webber; Nilka Bethancourt; who was already released; Jose Cano; Apolinar Quiros, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Nemesio Martinez, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Nilsa Ramos, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on her behalf; Pedro Cedeno, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Joel Campos, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Aris Nelson, a writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf; Felix Navarro; Jorge Gough; Professor Rogelio Ibarra; Malciades Morales; Susy Escobar; Eustacio Guerra Pitti; Victor Manuel Caribe; Angel Tejada; Didimo Pineda Perez; Dominga Pineda Perez; Daniel Abdiel Frombeta; Mario Miguel Fong Lau; Gudell Rangel Sanchez; Carlos Isaac Diaz Coronado; Mario Salazar; Carlos Montes; Oscar Martinez; and Plinio Aparicio.

This is the list of those who have been kept at Manuel Antonio Noriega's jails. We must add that lawyers have repeatedly tried to file writs of habeas corpus, but court officials have told them not to waste their time and money because they must remember that they live under a dictatorship. This leads us to believe that those who remain in jail will not be released.

Solis' Schedule 'Normal'

PA1505014689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0049 GMT
15 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 May (EFE)—The Panamanian Presidency issued a communique this afternoon stating that Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, is carrying out a "normal" work schedule.

The Presidential Press Secretariat communique says that Solis Palma met in his office with government ministers, directors of autonomous institutions, and legislators. The communique adds that "among the most pressing issues discussed by the president are those related to the city's cleanliness."

The official bulletin released late on Sunday afternoon points out that Solis Palma is also busy answering "hundreds of messages of solidarity" he has received from various countries and international organizations, all of which have rejected a possible U.S. invasion of Panama.

The communique comes at the end of a week during which Solis Palma and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, have not appeared in public or made statements, leading to the circulation of rumors throughout the country.

The communique refers to the 7 May elections—annulled on Wednesday, 10 May—by conveying Solis Palma's concern over "the large amounts of election-related garbage strewn all over the city."

A ranking FDP officer told EFE on Saturday that Noriega is following the crisis "from the interior," and gave assurances that the general "is calm and well."

The communique states that Solis Palma is also attending to issues such as the "supply of potable water to various parts of the country" and "repairs that must be made at the schools."

Meanwhile, the Presidency confirmed a progovernment press report regarding the designation of George Fisher Franklin as the Foreign Ministry's general director of foreign policy, through a decree signed by Solis Palma and Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter.

Fisher is a well-known leftist intellectual from the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, replacing Oscar Vargas Velarde, who was recently named ambassador to Colombia.

'Underlying Tension' in Country

PA1505024889 Bogota Inrvision Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 0104 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Panamanian people's indignation flowed from church pulpits today. Usual Sunday masses turned into a united show of protest when, throughout all the nation's churches, clergy and laymen read a letter in which Panama's Episcopal Conference condemned General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his followers' innumerable attacks against democracy during the past week.

Amid white handkerchiefs and shouts of "Justice, Justice," and "Endara, president," opposition followers headed by ADOC vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford reiterated that they will not allow the government to get away with its actions. Once again they called for a general strike on Wednesday and announced that they are willing to negotiate with progovernment civilians and military, as long as Noriega relinquishes power.

Although over the past few hours there have been rumors that Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the presidency, has left the country, it has been confirmed that he is still in Panama.

In renewed incidents with the foreign press, two reporters from the U.S. ABC television network were arrested for several hours. Although isolated disturbances were reported, this morning's events were not hindered by unexpected difficulties.

Right now Panama is calm, but there is underlying tension, which is not expected to last long. Preparations for Wednesday's protest are expected to begin tomorrow,

and it is also expected that the protest will be headed by [ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo] Endara, who will be released from the Paitilla hospital within hours.

Public Employees To Be Paid

PA1505024089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT
15 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 May (EFE)—The Panamanian Presidency announced tonight that the government will pay public employees their salary for the first 2 weeks of May on 17 May.

A communique released by the Presidency said that the government will also pay on the same date the portion of the so-called 13th-month bonus that should have been paid in April.

The communique said that "\$37 million will be put into circulation" on 17 May as payment for the approximately 140,000 public employees.

This payment will take place on the same day that the Panamanian opposition has said that it will hold a general 24-hour strike to protest the annulment of the 7 May elections. The strike will also protest the presence of General Manuel Antonio Noriega as head of the FDP.

In addition, the communique denies opposition reports that the government does not have enough money to pay public employees next week. Public employees will receive half of their 13th-month bonus in cash and the other half in promissory notes, the communique said.

According to a previous ministerial decree, the promissory notes must be redeemed prior to 31 December 1989. The government, however, has taken measures to redeem, over a period of time, some of these notes in advance and according to a lottery. The communique reiterates the promise to meet the announced deadlines.

Solis Palma Appears in Hotel

PA1505025489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0228 GMT
15 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 May (EFE)—Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, this afternoon made his first public appearance since the 7 May elections with a brief visit to one of the best hotels in Panama City, where most of the foreign press correspondents are lodged.

His appearance put an end to a number of rumors that have circulated over the past few days over his failure to appear in public after having cast his vote at one of the voting centers in Panama City. Solis Palma made no statements, and who he met at the hotel has not been disclosed.

The Panamanian Presidency issued a communique on Sunday announcing that Solis Palma was working "as usual." The Presidential Press Secretariat communique added that Solis Palma met in his office with ministers of state, directors of autonomous institutions, and legislators.

Argentina

Comments on, Reaction to General Elections

Alfonsin Speaks to Nation

PY1305020189 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora
Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 89

[Speech to the nation by President Raul Alfonsin from the White Room of Government House on 12 May—recorded]

[Text] Good evening. I want to say a few words regarding the upcoming election. In a few more hours, millions of Argentines will unite and jointly participate in a simple but magnificent ceremony: electing in freedom a new president according to the Constitution.

I have said we will go united, not divided, to the ballot boxes. I could have also said this event will unite us more because the Argentine people are united behind their institutions, a system that has allowed us to overcome many difficulties. We are united in hoping for an increasingly better future, a future we will build each day we live in freedom. We are united in the definitive decision not to return to the past. We have accomplished a lot together. We have defeated the momentum that was carrying us toward failure, deception, frustration, and decadence.

We have defeated fear together. We have defeated the fear of not reaching the goal of living in democracy. Democracy, despite some people's fears, proved not to be utopian but a reality sprouting from a society that stubbornly struggled to succeed, and I would say a society that has shown the world an example of civic spirit.

We are reaching this election as the country is going through difficult times. The path to overcome the crisis is steep and difficult. It is only human to try to find someone to blame for our frustrations at a time of crisis. It is human to try to find out who is responsible for our frustrations, even for our own guilt. It is also logical to blame politicians for these frustrations. Sometimes they deserve it, sometimes they do not. But politicians know those are the rules of the game, and that their first duty is to tolerate the criticism. Politicians cannot feel persecuted unless they are slandered.

This is the way things are today in Argentina. I want to confess that when on 10 December 1983 I assumed the responsibility of leading the country I had hopes and doubts because I did not know if we, the Argentine people, would be able to overcome the dark, entrenched, and fateful tradition of interrupting constitutional governments. I am sure you have also asked yourselves the same questions. I wondered about it several times in the last few years.

On 14 May we will conclude a critical stage in our march toward our future. The act of choosing our authorities through the ballot dignifies our society and shows off the degree of our civilization.

I have no doubt it is a difficult decision you have to make. There are many unsatisfied expectations. I am responsible for that. I myself have felt frustrated for not finding better ways to accomplish our goals, and had to struggle against the incomprehension and the stubborn resistance of people from international economic centers, including some people here, because they did not understand the consequences of their attitudes and omissions.

And although I am responsible for the office term that will come to an end on 10 December—and I assume this responsibility before you—allow me also to assume the satisfaction of having instituted in the country the solid basis for a better future. I have tried to govern the country seriously, honestly, and devotedly, and I thank you for the confidence, the effort, and the greatness you have shown these past years.

Let us live in democracy together, and let us foresee the signs of danger. You should think in freedom, without fear or threat, about the way you will vote. I know you will do so with maturity, and I would also like for you to do so with pride, satisfaction, and legitimate joy of realizing that at the end of a hard and strenuous journey you have achieved something that is fundamental and decisive for yourselves, your offspring, and the fatherland's future.

I am sure there will be other moments of joy for the Argentines, but this moment has a special and incomparable significance. Countrymen, let us celebrate the democracy we now have, the democracy we can exercise fully, which is not the achievement of a man or a government. This is the outstanding achievement of all of us and each of us: a feat of the noble, long-suffering, and generous Argentine people.

We can say with deep joy that the long-awaited event is at hand, and I want to celebrate it with you, my countrymen, who with both your support and criticism have contributed to bringing this long-dreamed-of day into realization.

Our common belief in the democratic system does not emerge from a hard-set ideology, nor is it the result of a fashion patterned after the most developed countries, following their historical models. Neither are we democrats by some sort of political inertia, but by conviction and choice. There is no power in the world that can influence us. The price we have paid for this democracy is very high, so we must not follow any messianic propositions that may yet lie ahead. We have accepted the challenge, and we have sown the democratic values everywhere, and particularly in the fertile fields of the youth.

The youth are the custodians of freedom, peace, and respect. There will no longer be arrogant groups in Argentina, because the youth will stand watch to keep us from returning to the Argentina of the past. For all this, I have no doubt that all Argentines have already made an

important gain. As the nation's president, and as the main guarantor of this civic commitment, I place my trust in the pronouncement of the people.

The electoral campaign has been unblemished. It has been conducted in absolute freedom. Sometimes I think that never have so many criticized a government so much, and we have even provided the media the government administrators to express the criticism. It is understandable that there should be apprehension over a possible backsliding of the country into the unresolved quandary of the past. The deplorable events of recent months have contributed to undermining the image of a country that has with dignity been integrated into the community of nations. The economic hardships of Argentina and the region have accelerated with the passage of time, making political and social needs more urgent. Resistance to change is also enormous.

Based on these things, certain media repeat tendentious conclusions and encourage despair and frustration. They surely do not understand the drama of the historical struggle of our transition, because they are accustomed to perceiving only the old framework, the routine of an eternal return to the past and the pendulum between authoritarianism and chaos that for generation after generation buried all our dreams and that razed the projects of freedom and justice.

I know the path before us is not easy. Argentine society still has tough decisions to make, but we have overcome an important part of our struggle. We are about to reach our democratic maturity.

There is no time left for a return to the past. An illustrious citizen called Crisologo Larraalde used to say: Those who come after us will continue killing each other in the name of programs. There will be killings, confrontations, defeats without meaning, victories without importance. People will not distinguish between the suffering of defeat and the enjoyment of victory. That was a tremendous forecast.

We need everyone's humility, honesty, and contribution to prevent this forecast from coming true today. It is therefore indispensable for rulers to be humble. Arrogance is bad, unity is indispensable. Rulers more than anybody else can conspire against the unity of the Argentine people. It is also indispensable that rulers show tolerance. Fanaticism is to be feared for the same reason. I myself have not been timid in the political arena. I am not asking for a truce, but I have to remind friends and foes that democratic parties cannot be enemies.

We should not let passions blind us, because no one has the right to destroy what we have already accomplished. No one has the right to withdraw his contribution. I think I have the right to ask my political colleagues, in the name of the Argentine people, to be serious and facilitate the transition and consolidate democracy.

I also ask our people, whatever the result of the election, to continue to show prudence and responsibility. Let us hope no one uses any pretext to violate what the Constitution provides for the election of our authorities and the transfer of power. Democracy must be consolidated at all cost. The most valuable asset we can bequeath our successors is democracy, for which we have even offered our lives.

Finally, I wish to address a few words to those who have less than others. I know what Argentine society has to thank them for—nothing less than social peace in good measure. In times of crisis they suffer economic hardship, yet when they claim their legitimate and just demands they have never tried to promote disorder that could serve the enemies of democracy.

I wish to share with you this instant of deep and serene popular happiness. As always in the life of man, nothing is complete. As the psalmist says, those who sow with tears will reap singing. Thousands, millions of Argentines during the past 6 decades would have given what they did not have in order to achieve an instant such as the one that we are experiencing today, but they struggled without achieving it.

Even if it were only for this, for their efforts and their hardships, today we do not have the right not to share this common happiness, although we know that it is overshadowed by other frustrations, by achievements that have not yet been obtained.

I recall a tale—I believe that it belongs to Bernardos [not further identified]—that I have repeated many times about a man who was lost in a snow storm. His strength was nearly exhausted and his greatest desire was to lie down and rest, but he knew that if he did it would mean death. To give himself courage he did not think much about his own life, but about what his loved ones would be thinking. And he said to himself: My wife is thinking that I am carrying on; therefore, I must continue. My sons think that I am continuing the march; therefore, I must continue. And my friends think that I am struggling, so I must struggle.

Argentines: I ask you to carry on, to continue to march. You will find nothing but horror without democracy. Your vote is a commitment to the future, to life, to your sons, to the fatherland.

I wish you the best of luck. Let God be with us. Good night.

Menem Claims Victory

PY1405232289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
2308 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] La Rioja, 14 May (DYN)—Justicialist Party presidential candidate Carlos Menem said here tonight that "victory is assured," adding that "we won in places they [the Radical Civic Union] did not believe we would win, such as in the Federal Capital, Cordoba, La Plata, and Mar del Plata."

UCR's Casella Admits Defeat

PY1505012289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0108 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] La Rioja, 12 May (NA)—Juan Manuel Casella, Radical Civic Union vice presidential candidate, telephoned the La Rioja provincial government house shortly after 2200 local [0100 GMT] tonight to acknowledge formally the victory of Justicialist Party candidate Carlos Menem.

Casella was unable to speak directly with Menem because the latter is still at the governor's residence. However, Casella asked where he could find Menem in order to greet him and congratulate him on the "excellent elections."

Angeloz Admits Defeat

PY1505015989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0140 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cordoba, 14 May (NA)—Radical Civic Union candidate Eduardo Angeloz, upon admitting defeat, tonight stated here that the nation "in an exemplary election" has expressed its preference for the Justicialist Popular Unity Front, FREJUPO.

Angeloz said the FREJUPO victory was very valuable, and he announced that he will call Carlos Menem to congratulate him personally.

Angeloz wished Menem "the best of luck" and noted that the outcome of the election will help strengthen Argentine democracy.

Alsogaray Admits Menem's Victory

PY1505021189 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0150 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 May (NA)—Alvaro Alsogaray, the presidential candidate for the Centrist Alliance, tonight at 2300 admitted the broad victory of Peronist candidate Carlos Menem and expressed his surprise of the continuing "high degree of polarization" in this election.

In remarks made at his electoral headquarters, Alsogaray reiterated his support for the people's decision.

Menem Makes Victory Speech

PY1505041589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0242 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] La Rioja, 14 May (NA)—President-elect Carlos Menem tonight said that "unless we manage to develop our economic potential it will be difficult for us to attain social peace."

Paraphrasing Pope John Paul II, Menem said: "Peace has a name: development." He added: "I want to take advantage of this opportunity to call upon all the forces of our fatherland, the working forces of our fatherland. Peron used to say that to rule is to provide work, and we

will make that principle come true. We will provide the work that will make it possible to enact the biblical precept: Thou shall earn thy bread with the sweat of thy brow."

He went on to say: "The Argentine brothers want work, not charity," and he added that he will promote the "development of the basic strength of the nation, starting with its enormous potential in terms of human resources."

Menem said: "We also call upon the productive sectors, the businessmen, the merchants, the cattlemen, the farmers, and all the people, to get the country moving. That is why we are talking of an economic and social pact."

He made it clear that "here there will be no possibilities for speculation or usury. We will put an end to the Argentina where those who do nothing live well and those who work every day of the year live badly."

Menem said: "This call is directed basically at the youth and the Argentine women, the youth and the Argentine women who live in this fatherland. The youth will be not only the future of Argentina; they will provide the reviving juices for the old trunk of the fatherland."

"The youth need to fulfill themselves through the productive revolution that we will launch. The Argentine women, as General Peron used to say, cannot be left outside the task of [words indistinct]."

To the crowd that gathered here, Menem said: "We will have to reorganize and moralize the state" and put an end "to a time-old habit that has become a law, a bad law: corruption or petty corruption in government agencies. Argentina has paid too dearly for this. The country has been practically emptied. Not just now, but for a long time. We will turn Argentina into a country where big deals will become possible and dirty deals impossible."

He added: "Since there are many journalists here, I would like to put an end to an old legend. I want to explain Justicialism in a few simple words: This is basically a victory for democracy. I do not feel that I am the only winner. All of us have won here, all of us without exception."

Menem indicated that he had talked to Angeloz a few minutes ago and had told him that he had defeated an adversary but had recovered a friend. He repeated that everyone has won: "He in Cordoba, I in La Rioja, and all of you in Argentina."

He concluded by saying: "I ask you to follow me. Follow me brothers and sisters of my fatherland. Follow me because I will not disappoint you. May God bless you. Whatever I am I owe to you, to all the people, to the people of La Rioja, to the people of Argentina, and especially to God, who guided my steps and enlightened me."

Alfonsin Congratulates Menem

PY1505030689 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 0247 GMT 15 May 89

[Report from Government House by reporter Silvina Martinez—live]

[Text] President Alfonsin has sent a telegram to Carlos Menem to greet him and to congratulate him on his electoral victory, which will make him the next Argentine president.

Alfonsin added that the transition period that is beginning now should take place in the same atmosphere of peace and tranquillity that prevailed during the election.

This is part of a telegram sent by President Alfonsin to the virtual president-elect Carlos Saul Menem.

Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez also released a document in which President Alfonsin states that only two nights ago he had the privilege and honor, which other civilian presidents in the past 50 years did not have, of urging our fellow countrymen to practice democracy and to enjoy the magnificent civic celebration of a presidential election.

In the statement, Alfonsin says: Today, I want to invite you again to celebrate responsibly and calmly. This celebration should be shared by all of us who were able to express our will freely. Yet, as in any democratic election, those who obtained the majority of the votes should be happier.

Alfonsin added that every time he addressed the Argentine people he always tried to be sincere. He said: Speaking with the same sincerity, I want to state that I cannot share the joy of the winners simply because I am among those who feel that their proposals were defeated at the ballot boxes.

Alfonsin concluded his statement by noting that on 10 December he will turn power over to his successor according to the Constitution. By so doing, he said, we will have consolidated democracy.

Menem To Defend Democracy

PY1505042289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0342 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] La Rioja, 15 May (TELAM)—Shortly after midnight, Justicialist presidential candidate Carlos Menem answered a congratulatory message sent to him by President Raul Alfonsin. In his reply, Menem thanked Alfonsin for his message and assured him that he will defend democracy.

In his reply to Alfonsin, which was released at Government House, Menem says:

"I sincerely thank you for your remarks. I want you to rest assured that as the president of all Argentines I will always defend with my convictions this democratic system for which I have fought all my life. The Argentine nation is sure today that we will strive for a joint effort that will enable us to walk on the path that will lead us to greatness and development, putting aside partisan differences and keeping in mind that a secret for our reconciliation lies in national unity. Sincerely."

Cabinet To Be Announced

PY1505042989 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0350 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] La Rioja, 14 May (DYN)—President-elect Carlos Menem tonight stated that he will not have any of his advisers "join" Juan Carlos Pugliese's economic team. He admitted, however, that "there will be contacts to find out what is happening."

Menem said he will address the nation in 15 days and that he will officially announce his cabinet in 30 days.

Finally, he announced that Mendoza Governor Jose Octavio Bordon "will serve" on his cabinet.

Menem on Possible U.S. Trip

PY1505045789 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0426 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 May (DYN)—President-elect Carlos Menem admitted that he could travel to the United States in June to meet with U.S. President George Bush.

In a long interview given early this morning to Radio del Plata, Menem said: "There is nothing concrete. There are some talks about my attending an international forum and my taking advantage of that opportunity, but there is still nothing official."

Menem also described as "thoughtless" [desprolijo] the deployment of U.S. troops to Panama.

Asked about the position Argentina will adopt at the upcoming UN [as received] meeting on the Panamanian issue, Menem said: "Basing its position on the principle of noninterference in the affairs of other states, Argentina will have to condemn violence and will have to state its opposition to the nonrecognition of the people's sovereign vote."

Justicialists Maintain Lead

PY1505054189 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0514 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 May (DYN)—The San Martin Vote-Counting Center has released the following official results based on 66,000 voting stations throughout the country (87 percent):

Justicialist Popular Unity Front [FREJUPO]: 6,949,016 votes, 47 percent
Radical Civic Union [UCR]: 4,809,383 votes, 32.5 percent
United Left: 373,075 votes, 2.5 percent
Independent Federalist Confederation [CFI]: 6,77,343 votes, 4.5 percent
Centrist Alliance: 1,006,048 votes, 6.7 percent
Retirees Blanco Party: 280,597 votes, 1.9 percent

Putting together UCR and CFI, Angeloz has 37 percent, and putting together FREJUPO and Retirees Blanco Party votes, Menem has 48.9 percent of the votes.

Bolivia

MNR Rejects ADN Leaders Fraud Charges
PY1205032189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
10 May 89 p 5

[Text] The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) has rejected the charges of fraud made by Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) leaders and said that the fraud accusations are meant to tarnish the cleanliness and impartiality with which the 7 May elections were held.

MNR leader Irving Alcaraz yesterday said that "the ADN's objective is to blemish the Bolivian electoral process to annul the elections."

Alcaraz said that in the face of this "possibility" the MNR has ordered "its representatives accredited to the vote-counting centers to strictly control and defend the popular vote in favor of the MNR."

"The main objective of the ADN is to annul the 7 May elections by discrediting them," Alcaraz said.

The MNR leader reiterated that his party has obtained first place in the elections, and he asked ADN candidate Hugo Banzer to keep his promise to respect the lead of whoever wins the relative majority of votes in Congress.

He said that the ADN's own vote tally showed that it was losing, so it is now up to the ADN to acknowledge Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's victory.

Alcaraz told PRESENCIA that the MNR leadership is aware of the need to reach a political agreement with one of the great political forces, either the ADN or the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] in order to achieve the Presidency.

The MNR's expectations are based on a mathematical estimate based on 1 million votes from across the country. According to this estimate, MNR has 26.82 percent of the votes, ADN has 24.03 percent, MIR has 17.9 percent, and CONDEPA [Conscience of the Fatherland] has 9.94 percent.

MNRI Voices Support for Sanchez de Lozada
PY1105142589 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The MNRI [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left] has issued a proclamation stating that MNR candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada should be installed as president. Anibal Ferrufino, Hernan Lopez, Yuni Bernal, and Genaro Moya, on behalf of the party led by former President Hernan Siles, urged MNRI followers to mobilize in defense of the people's vote.

Today we proclaim the victory of our movement and we determinedly support the candidacy of Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, the proclamation says.

The MNRI, which in the past strongly opposed the new economic policy and Decree No 21,060, states that it is convinced that the MNR candidate supports the banners of the national revolution, which is reflected by the reactivation of the national economy with social justice.

The proclamation adds that the support that the MNRI has lent to Sanchez de Lozada was approved by the 6th national MNRI conference held on 9 April.

Tally Shows CONDEPA Winning in La Paz
PY1305042289 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 89

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Jose Luis Paredes, president of the La Paz electoral court, Murillo Province, has reported that so far in La Paz, 886 voting stations have been approved, 53 canceled, and 68 others have yet to be approved.

According to the vote tally of 1,007 voting stations which represent 229,000 votes, the results are:

[Begin Paredes recording] First comes the CONDEPA with 75,805 votes, which represents 32.66 percent of the total votes; second, the ADN with 43,243 votes, 21.53 percent; third, the MNR with 36,831 votes, 18.34 percent; fourth, the MIR-MN [Movement of the Revolutionary Left-New Majority] 25,132 votes, 12.51 percent; fifth, the United Left Front with 5,663 votes, 2.82 percent; sixth, PS-1 [Socialist Party One] with 4,349 votes, 2.17 percent; seventh, MRTKL [Tupac Katari Revolutionary Liberation Movement] with 1,926 votes, 0.96 percent; eighth, FULKA [United Katarist Liberation Front] with 691 votes, 0.34 percent; ninth, FSB [Bolivian Socialist Falange] with 537 votes, 0.27 percent; and tenth, MIN with 337 votes, 0.17 percent. [end recording]

Total valid votes amounted to 184,514; blank votes 4,013, that is, 2 percent of the votes; and annulled votes, 12,347, 6.15 percent.

Paredes said that so far more than 50 percent of the votes of La Paz and El Alto have been officially scrutinized. He expects the final vote tally to be ready for next Monday.

Brazil

President To Attend Rodriguez Inauguration

PY1305182389 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Monday morning, 15 May, President Sarney will board an airplane at Viracopos Airport in Campinas and will depart for Asuncion, Paraguay to attend the inauguration of Paraguayan President-elect Andres Rodriguez.

Sarney's entourage includes Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre; Mines and Energy Minister Vicente Fialho; and Bayma Denys, the chief of the president's military household.

President Sarney will remain in Paraguay only 12 hours.

Chamber of Deputies President Paes de Andrade will be acting president of the Republic during Sarney's visit.

Sarney Undergoes 'Routine Medical Tests'

PY1305192689 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] President Jose Sarney underwent routine medical tests at the Heart Institute [INCOR] in Sao Paulo.

Upon leaving the hospital, the president said that the November elections are in no way in jeopardy.

President Sarney arrived at the hospital this morning at 0800. He got out of his car, waved to journalists, and entered the hospital.

President Jose Sarney has been coming to the INCOR once a year since his inauguration to undergo a general medical checkup.

Today, as on previous occasions, he took four tests: a blood test, an examination of the digestive tract, an examination of the nervous system, and heart tests, which were more detailed.

The president was submitted to an electrocardiogram and to a coronary profile, which especially serves to control the levels of cholesterol and fat platelets. If there are excessive fat platelets, they can occlude the blood vessels.

Upon leaving the hospital, the president said that he is in very good health.

Sarney later talked about an idea supported by politicians and businessmen concerning the creation of a national pact to find a solution to the Brazilian crisis.

[Begin recording] [Sarney] I have always advocated that, through consensus, a pact, or an agreement, we should create the conditions for a democratic transition without any traumas whatsoever. Therefore, I am always openly championing this type of initiative.

I believe that more than ever Brazil needs Brazilians to be united in order to overcome the current difficulties.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the elections are in jeopardy?

[Sarney] No. The elections are not in jeopardy. Brazil is gradually strengthening its institutions and we are on the way to becoming an even greater democracy.

The problem is that the democratic path is a difficult one. Sometimes, we have to overcome difficulties. If all of us were united, we could reduce those difficulties.

Tiradentes ["toothpuller"—Joaquin Jose da Silva Xavier, an Army officer who in the 1780's advanced the cause of independence] already said that we will be a great nation if all of us want it. Thank you. [end recording]

Minister Reaffirms 'Nonintervention' Stance

PA1405224489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2123 GMT 14 May 89

[Excerpts] Brazil, 14 May (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre denied that Brazil supports the adoption of measures against the Panamanian Government at the upcoming OAS meeting and reaffirmed his country's position in defense of the principle of nonintervention.

"Nothing has happened to alter Brazil's position," Abreu said during an interview published today by the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. [passage omitted]

Abreu confirmed to the newspaper that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez spoke by telephone with Brazilian President Jose Sarney a few days ago to discuss the Panamanian crisis but, he explained, no decision was reached during that conversation.

"Brazil will not judge Panama's internal policies," Abreu said. On Friday he instructed Brazil's OAS representative, Ambassador Dario Castro Alves, to fully defend the principle of nonintervention. The Foreign Ministry explained that Brazil upholds the Group of Eight's declaration and has supported the OAS consultative meeting because Brazil supports dialogue and negotiation through existing forums.

Abreu Sodre will not attend the foreign ministers meeting in Washington on Wednesday because he will be in Asuncion with President Sarney for the inauguration of Paraguay's President-elect General Andres Rodriguez.

Chile

Christian Democratic Party's Aylwin Interviewed
PY1205184089 Santiago APSI in Spanish
1-7 May 89 pp 11, 12, 13, 14

[Interview with Christian Democratic Party, PDC, president Patricio Aylwin by APSI reporter Jorge Andres Richards—date and place not given]

[Text] [Richards] Various sectors take it for granted that Patricio Aylwin is virtually the opposition's only candidate.

[Aylwin] I always try to remember that one must not jump the gun. Therefore, I would rather not make any hasty remarks.

[Richards] But there is a general impression....

[Aylwin] Yes, as you say there is a general impression and I cannot conceal the fact that I hope this impression will become reality.

[Richards] This means you could be the future president of Chile?

[Aylwin] I believe that the coalition of parties for democracy [CPPD] will win and, without trying to sound boastful, I am more concerned over tasks we will have to carry out once we are in the government than over the electoral campaign.

[Richards] If you become the next president of the Republic what will you do about Pinochet, who intends to remain as the Army commander?

[Aylwin] I have maintained—and I believe that all us members of the CPPD agree—that the constitutional article that establishes that the commanders in chief and, specifically, those of service at the end of the current regime, cannot be removed, represents a serious obstacle for a normal development toward democracy. Therefore, I hope that Pinochet will voluntarily retire from the Army.

[Richards] He has said that he will not leave his post. Will you ask him to resign?

[Aylwin] It will not be a matter of asking him to resign. It is a matter of getting him to resign. If this does not happen we will still have the majority support in congress to amend the Constitution and eliminate the article that says that the commanders in chief cannot be removed.

[Richards] Can you imagine governing the country with Pinochet at the head of the Army while the Constitution is being amended?

[Aylwin] No. I cannot imagine such a thing. I think the amendment of the Constitution will not take long. However, we will seek to get him out before this.

[Richards] What if he insists on being a senator for life?

[Aylwin] Look, I cannot imagine Pinochet as a member of a body in which he is just one of the crowd and treated the same way as the other members, as is the case in congress. He has ruled this country for 16 years and does not tolerate debate. To participate in congress means tolerating contradictions, debates, and many times having to accept your adversary's opinion. This does not fit Pinochet's personality.

[Richards] What will you do with him?

[Aylwin] Chile seeks a climate of peace and respect for everyone. This, however, does not preclude clarification of cases of violation of human rights through the appropriate judicial channels.

[Richards] Does this mean that Pinochet should be tried?

[Aylwin] It is not up to me to say so, but General Mattei once said that the military uniform does not prevent anyone from possible charges of violation of human rights, and I think this goes for everyone.

[Richards] Aren't you worried about the recent Army declarations?

[Aylwin] Look, this is a subject that should worry me. However, I tend to think that there are people trying to create conflicts and it would be a great mistake to fall into their trap. There are some sectors that are seeking to arouse the military men's sense of pride and make them believe that they are threatened in their capacity as an institution, and as individuals, by a possible civilian government.

[Richards] Isn't that the case?

[Aylwin] No. I believe that we democrats should reassert that we want a respected and respectable Armed Forces as a part of a democratic Chile.

[Richards] How does one incorporate the Armed Forces into an institutional way of life without starting a military tutelage?

[Aylwin] In democratic countries there are mechanisms for the participation of the Armed Forces, not only in the professional field but also in the development field. I think the Armed Forces should cooperate with those organs in charge of planning, studying, and implementing development policies. I think they have a great chance to cooperate in this field and that an effort should be made to overcome the Armed Forces' isolation from the rest of society.

[Richards] How will you do it?

[Aylwin] It is a slow process. Many obstacles and many prejudices must be overcome. It will be achieved mainly by allowing the military to become engaged in civilian tasks, and by allowing civilians to become engaged in studies and in the making of decisions that are considered specifically of a military nature. For example, many U.S. Pentagon officials are not military men; they are economists, sociologists, and university professors. Likewise, many military men are engaged in civilian activities that are important to the life of the state. In a word, there should be full integration between civilians and the Armed Forces, without any sort of tutelage.

[Richards] Will you dissolve the CNI [National Intelligence Center]?

[Aylwin] Certainly. I do not think that special security services like the CNI are really necessary. The Carabineros are in charge of preserving order. I believe that this force should be put back under jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry. The judicial police, which is subordinated to the judicial branch, takes care of court affairs. Intelligence tasks should be undertaken by the appropriate organizations, which are the Armed Forces, like everywhere else in the world.

[Richards] How do you plan to dissolve the CNI?

[Aylwin] Those organizations were created through laws, some of which were approved in secret. There is a legal principle that says that an action should be terminated through the same channel that was used for its creation. Public laws, which will not be secret, will be rapidly approved to dissolve those organizations. We democrats need no special security services that violate human rights.

[Richards] A few days ago you said that you agree with Clodomiro Almeyda in that the next congress should be temporary, and that it should be designated for the sole purpose of amending the Constitution....

[Aylwin] What I said is that the current electoral system is outrageous, and I have already given the reasons. Consequently, I believe that it would be logical to include a transitory article in the amendment, providing for the early termination of the term of the congress that was elected through the old system, and also providing for the election of a new congress in keeping with the new regulations.

[Richards] Those reforms are most likely to be rapidly made in the incoming term. This means that you are talking about a congress whose term will be 1 or 2 years....

[Aylwin] At this time I would not dare make a forecast regarding deadlines. However, it would be ideal to spend the shortest possible time for the democratization of the institutions, so that the people do not concentrate exclusively on that issue. If it takes less than 4 years, it will be much better.

[Richards] Can we be sure that during your term our country will not be led to an economic crisis like the crises in Peru and Argentina, which are countries which, like Chile, passed from a dictatorship to a democracy?

[Aylwin] You have a point, and the issue is a source of much concern. However, there is also the case of Uruguay, which has managed to go through the transition process with considerable difficulties but with increasingly positive economic indexes. In our case there is something essential: Chilean democrats should understand that the future government cannot work wonders and that they should not wonder about what the government will do to pull the country out of this. They should wonder what can Chileans do to put Chile on the path to progress. From this viewpoint, I believe that it will be essential for everyone to participate in a responsible manner in the search for the most appropriate paths. We need to devise mechanisms for accord. For example, I believe that the CUT [Central Labor Union], the CDT [Workers Democratic Central], and the labor organizations should search for formulas to help to improve the living standards of workers, but without promoting inflation. This objective should be achieved through negotiations with business sectors and political sectors. I believe that we should determinedly follow the example of Spain, which arranged the La Moncloa pacts after the death of Franco.

[Richards] But we are in Chile.

[Aylwin] I know we are talking about Chile, but we should take into account other positive experiences. In this regard, we as a coalition have already contacted labor organizations like the CUT and the ACUSO [Social Accord for the No-Vote] in an effort to let them participate in the design of government programs and thus become aware of the existing limitations. We do not want people to expect too much.

Summing up, we are taking all necessary precautions to avoid the type of crises that have hit neighboring countries. This should be the commitment of all democrats. Nothing can be solved overnight.

[Richards] You support the social market economy. What is the difference between that and the current economic system?

[Aylwin] It is very simple: Chile has a market economy rather than a social market economy; that is, the current system does not take into account social needs. We have a single market economy. Therefore, we will provide for social needs like jobs, housing, health, and education.

[Richards] Another aspect to be faced by the upcoming administration will be Chile's integration into the international community...

[Aylwin] That will be the easiest task. During my recent tour of Europe, and especially during a meeting at the European Parliament, groups of Christian Democrats, socialists, conservatives, communists, and Social Democrats expressed their interest and great hope regarding Chile. All of them also showed their willingness to resume smooth and increasing political, economic, and cultural relations with Chile and to lend their solidarity so Chilean democracy can develop.

[Richards] Are you willing to resume relations with countries such as the Soviet Union and Cuba?

[Aylwin] Chile should maintain relations with all countries. It is supposed, however, that those countries would not meddle in other countries' affairs. Regarding the Soviet Union, it seems to me that relations should be resumed.

[Richards] What about Cuba?

[Aylwin] I am not sure of the accuracy of some recent press reports that the Cuban regime would support groups trying to disrupt the Chilean process.

[Richards] Fidel Castro made a different statement during Gorbachev's recent visit to Cuba.

[Aylwin] That's all right. If the Cuban regime is willing to respect the Chilean democratic process, I would not have any problem with resuming relations with Cuba.

[Richards] There is concern about the way you will organize your cabinet. Will a proportional system be used so that all the CPPD members can be satisfied?

[Aylwin] Categorically, no. What we had agreed at the CPPD meeting is that the parties should place their best teams at the disposal of the president of the national reconstruction government. Those teams have already begun working. There are already some political and technical teams. The best and most efficient teams will join the administration.

[Richards] Then this will not be a merely Christian Democratic government?

[Aylwin] Certainly not. This will be a government of national reconstruction.

[Richards] Would you designate Clodomiro Almeida as Interior Minister or Foreign Minister?

[Aylwin] I do not know if he wants to be a minister.

[Richards] And if he agrees to be a minister?

[Aylwin] That could be a possibility. I do not see why I should exclude him. I will not necessarily designate him to head one of those ministries. He could be nominated for other ministries.

[Richards] If [Party for Democracy President Ricardo] Lagos or [Radical Party President] Silva Cimma were not candidates for the Senate, would you appoint them as members of your cabinet?

[Aylwin] Of course.

[Richards] Will Alejandro Foxley [not further identified] be the next Finance Minister?

[Aylwin] It sounds strange to begin distributing official posts when no one is sure what will happen. Foxley is undoubtedly one of the people proposed by the CPPD and the PDC as a possible candidate to head the Foreign Ministry because of his qualifications, experience, and knowledge and for everything he has done during these years.

[Richards] You are 70 years old, and your possible rival Hernan Buchi is 40. He is also an unusual candidate. Aren't you concerned about these differences?

[Aylwin] I am not afraid of the situation because the choice will be made by the Chilean people. I believe that youth does not only mean good physical shape. Fortunately, I am in good health. Youth, however, is a state of mind. From a spiritual viewpoint, I feel at the peak of my capabilities, like a man who looks toward the future and not toward the past, someone who wants to work and not rest like an old man.

Opposition Coalition Conditions Dialogue
*PY1205191089 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 May 89*

[Excerpt] The Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] has said that a possible resumption of talks with the government is subject to the latter's official announcement that it is willing to amend the following aspects of the 1980 Constitution: the mechanism for constitutional amendments; the composition and functions of the National Security Council; and the creation and composition of congress.

This decision was disclosed by the CPPD through its secretary Enrique Correa.

The CPPD has also voiced its satisfaction over the fact that in the past few days various sectors have also expressed their desire for constitutional amendments. [passage omitted]

Caceres Willing To Talk with CPPD

PY1305013889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
300 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Caceres this afternoon said the government is willing to resume talks with the opposition political parties about constitutional amendments. Caceres said this is why today he sent a letter to Patricio Aylwin, spokesman of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy and president of the Christian Democratic Party.

In his letter, Caceres states that he is willing to resume talks early next week about the following main points of disagreement: a mechanism for constitutional amendments, and the creation and composition of congress.

The interior minister said these talks should be held as soon as possible because time is running short. Caceres said the government is willing to improve certain aspects of the Constitution that are very important for future institutional life. Caceres said he hopes to meet with Aylwin either Monday or Tuesday next week to talk about the constitutional amendments.

When asked whether these talks are subject to what the PDC and the CPPD called a basic agreement between the National Renewal Party and the CPPD, Caceres said that according to the latest opposition statements, the so-called basic agreement that the opposition calls an essential prerequisite to reach a future agreement is evidently ruled out.

The interior ministry added that the government is willing to talk about a mechanism of constitutional amendments and about the composition and creation of congress. These are the two specific subjects I would like to discuss with Aylwin to learn the CPPD's proposals and see if we could reach a point of agreement with the opposition parties, the National Renewal Party, the Independent Democratic Union, and all the sectors interested in this subject, Minister Caceres said.

Colombia

M-19's Pizarro on End of Armed Struggle

PM1205155689 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA
in Spanish 23 Apr 89 p 16

[Interview with M-19, 19 April Movement, leader Carlos Pizarro by Joaquin Ibarz; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] Ciudadela de la Paz, Cauca Mountains, Colombia—[Passage omitted]

[Pizarro] In Latin America as a whole, and in Colombia in particular, alternate options to armed revolution are being sought; we want different options. The important thing is to be able, from the position of an armed movement, to build foundations that will permit the

attainment of very profound changes in Colombia. Had it not been for the armed struggle, if we had not taken up arms, this country's historic opportunities for renewal would have been nullified.

[Ibarz] Is legalization the only option for the M-19 now?

[Pizarro] We sincerely want to abandon the armed struggle but certain minimum conditions must be met; a certain scope for action is required. We are discussing with the government and the parties under what circumstances such a transition from armed struggle to political struggle is justified. The armed struggle could become topical again. We are seeking different ways of resolving Colombia's basic problems. The crisis affecting Latin America must be resolved democratically.

[Ibarz] Can these negotiations with the government be interpreted as a capitulation by M-19?

[Pizarro] You capitulate when you abandon or disown your political objectives or believe it is impossible to turn them into realities. If we find greater viability for achieving our political aims under conditions different from those of the armed struggle, then this new path must be followed. What we are doing now is investigating throughout the country the various options whereby we can achieve our aims, by transferring to political struggle. We are not relinquishing the bid for power, but our aim is not the armed struggle but to open up areas of power in order to achieve a more just, more democratic, and more decent society.

[Ibarz] What differences are there between this peace process and that promoted in 1984 by President Belisario Betancur, which ended in complete failure?

[Pizarro] In 1984 it was not a sincere attempt to open up new options for society but an attempt to delegitimize the guerrilla groups and to secure M-19's political defeat. In this process we are all working with greater maturity; there is not the same innocence and political naivety as 5 years ago. The country has changed too. Colombia has changed. The violence affects everyone now; the ruling class is aware that it has to introduce reforms, because otherwise it too will pay for the violence. Not even the Army feels as hostile to peace as in 1984.

[Ibarz] Why does the M-19 attach great importance to the Catholic Church's presence in the peace process?

[Pizarro] We have envisaged the church supervising and protecting the negotiation process. We need someone to supervise and somehow to monitor the goodwill of the two sides. The nation needs the church's witness, and we will create scope for it to act as guarantor. The peace process could fail, and if it does fail someone with authority will be needed to identify the responsibilities very clearly.

[Ibarz] The M-19 organization has just celebrated its 15th birthday. How would you assess these 15 years of guerrilla struggle?

[Pizarro] M-19 is an atypical group. It is the only non-Marxist guerrilla group. In Europe we would not be fighting in the wild. The problem is that it was necessary to take up arms in this country to seek a democratic system. M-19 has caused many waves in Colombia's life. M-19's great historical achievement is to have dispelled the torpor of Colombian society, of the "yawning democracy" that was becoming established during the period of the National Front, which legitimized an absolute power monopoly that created dissatisfaction and paralysis in society and great injustices. That was the context within which the violence that we are experiencing now became established.

[Ibarz] The M-19 has lost many good people during these 15 years. Now that you are about to abandon the armed struggle, were so many efforts and the sacrifice of so many leaders worth while?

[Pizarro] The struggle has proved very costly. We suffered the loss of a generation of founders of M-19 who acquired national status, and we still feel this loss. It is not easy to produce men of such experience, stature, and maturity. When we began this process we knew we would pay a very high price. You could not hope to change a society with such a strong and consolidated leadership class without a very intensive struggle. What we are experiencing now, our society's level of awareness, and the possibilities of achieving reforms justify everything we have done. If M-19 had not taken the risk of paying such a high price, I believe the country would have remained paralyzed.

[Ibarz] What prompted you to negotiate with the government and to consider abandoning the armed struggle?

[Pizarro] Colombia is moving fast toward a kind of Lebanonization, whereby each side has its own portion of power and its own geographical space. The violence has become so extreme that it is out of control and senseless; new solutions are needed for the opposing forces in the country. Our approach is to work for a negotiation process, if there really is someone with whom to forge peace and to build a leadership within a framework of consultations and radical reforms. A different path from civil war must be sought and new ways of ending the armed struggle must be tried. However, since this is something that is being worked on day after day, we cannot say that the outcome is assured.

Minister: 'No Possibility' of Accord With ELN
PA1205170989 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network
in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Cali—The Colombian Government has said that there is no possibility of reaching an understanding with the Army of National Liberation [ELN] and stated that it trusts that the M-19 will respond positively to the immense hopes the people placed on [words indistinct] the entire world.

Those statements were made by Colombian Government Minister Raul Orejuela Bueno during a ceremony held in his honor. Orejuela made a brief assessment of each of the armed groups in Colombia and the possibility of holding dialogues with their leaders.

Minister Orejuela said the executive branch trusts the goodwill of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, which has expressed its will to hold a dialogue.

Ecuador

Government Supports OAS Meeting on Panama
PA1305231989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1906 GMT
13 May 89

[Text] Quito, 13 May (AFP)—Ecuador has expressed its support for the OAS foreign ministers meeting scheduled for next Wednesday in Washington to discuss the Panama situation, according to an official Foreign Ministry bulletin today.

Ecuador's permanent representative to the OAS, Miguel Antonio Vasco, said "the only solution to the political crisis afflicting the Panamanian people must be based on respect for the majority's will, and the process to fully recover the people's democracy must be irreversible and legitimate," the bulletin added.

In this case, Ecuador "considers it appropriate to carry out a political action based on regional solidarity and agreement" and in accordance with the OAS Charter. One of its essential goals is "to sponsor and consolidate a representative democracy based on respect for the principle of nonintervention," the Foreign Ministry bulletin added.

Foreign Minister Condemns Citibank Actions
PA1205235189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1932 GMT
12 May 89

[Text] Quito, 12 May (AFP)—The withholding of the \$80 million deposited by Ecuador in Citibank of New York "affects the feasibility of implementing the Brady plan," Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said in Quito. Meanwhile, the local press has described the decision as "an act of financial piracy."

Cordovez believes that the decision has "very serious" consequences because "it affects the feasibility of implementing the Brady plan, a U.S. Government initiative and proposal."

The government insisted, however, that "unilaterally and unexpectedly breaking every commitment," the Citibank declared that Ecuador had defaulted on its loans given as part of a financial agreement Ecuador signed with the Citibank for \$80 million to tide Ecuador over during a period in which Ecuadoran petroleum exports were being phased out.

The minister recalled that on 30 March, and "with the written consent of the Citibank," this loan was refinanced for the usual 90-day period and interest payments were made, "which means that the loan was in effect and that it would come due on 30 June."

President Rodrigo Borja ordered the Ecuadoran Central Bank and the country's public institutions to close their accounts and suspend international operations with the Citibank. Cordovez got in touch with the U.S. Government to condemn the "U.S. bank's reprehensible action."

The Ecuadoran Government said that the Citibank's actions cast doubt on the integrity of that institution, endanger Ecuadoran interests, and "seriously damage the feasibility of developing the Brady plan, which was improvised to solve the Latin American foreign debt problem."

In addition to condemning the Citibank's actions, Cordovez sent a note to the U.S. Secretary of State, met with the U.S. ambassador in Quito, and ordered the Ecuadoran ambassador in Washington to meet with U.S. State and Treasury Department officials, World Bank officials, and officials from other institutions linked to the problem.

The influential Ecuadoran morning paper EL COMERCIO published an editorial today stating that Citibank's actions are "truly unacceptable and reprehensible," and that these actions "unilaterally break a commitment."

EL COMERCIO's editorial backed Cordovez' complaint to the U.S. Government, stressing that "the U.S. Government should scold the U.S. institution for violating principles of trust and for actually undermining the implementation of initiatives, such as the Brady plan, to solve the foreign debt problem."

It added that the Citibank's decision "is unacceptable and is not only detrimental to Ecuador, but could cause unrest in other countries."

The newspaper's editorial added that the retention of funds "is an unbelievable abuse that could only be classified as an act of financial piracy, which is detrimental to the great efforts of the country and the international community to solve the enormous foreign debt problem."

Citibank failed to respect the fact that the loan had not expired and that part of the money it seized were funds which the World Bank had deposited in Ecuador's name. In addition, it disregarded the agreements with the management committee "as well as the new financial situation promoted by the U.S. Government through the Brady plan."

AVC Guerrillas Deny Laying Down Arms

FL1205175689 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish
2 May 89 p 10

[Text] Rosendo Santamaria, who described himself as an area representative for Alfaro Lives, Dammit (AVC) said yesterday: "We have not laid down our arms. On Saturday and Sunday, we began taking over certain neighborhoods to hold talks with the people."

Santamaria said: "An agreement had been reached between our organization and the government, which promised to hold talks with the people. Instead, as of today all it has done is to decree measures against the people." Consequently, he added: "If the national government and the oligarchy compel us to take up arms we are ready to do so and to take the necessary steps to ensure the fulfillment of the people's demands and an easing of the crisis."

Santamaria, who was among the crowd at the "Cinco Esquinas" rally following the 1 May march in this city, insisted that "the current situation calls for dialogue, and we must comply with this to find a way out of the crisis. The Democratic Left government has demonstrated that it is not doing anything to get us out of this situation."

Santamaria accused the government of not having implemented measures to benefit the majority of the people, particularly the working class, or improve needy areas, which lack drinking water and the most essential living conditions. Because of this, he added, we "reiterate that the first step we have taken is a dialogue with the people regarding the struggle."

Later, the AVC leader said: "We are not warmongers; we want peace" and the fostering of dialogue. "The entire nation knows that when we reached an agreement with the government, we were willing to lay down our arms; we sacrificed our top colleagues for the people's cause."

Concluding, Santamaria said that justice is slow and is being manipulated. He said that the AVC accepts the court's ruling in the case of the Baquerizo Yela brothers, "who will regain their freedom in June."

However, he continued, "some members of our organization have been imprisoned in Guayaquil without a verdict. We have asked the courts to proceed according to the law, but they have not done so."

Paraguay

Sanguinetti Arrives for Rodriguez Inauguration

PY1405213689 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish
2120 GMT 14 May 89

[Report by unidentified reporter from Asuncion International Airport—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Accompanied by Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti is getting into a car that will

take him to downtown Asuncion. In a few minutes, Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana will meet with his Uruguayan counterpart, Luis Barrios Tassano, at the Foreign Ministry.

The welcoming ceremony is over. The Uruguayan president has come to our country to attend the inauguration of Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez. [passage omitted]

Venezuela's Tejera Arrives, Comments on Panama
PY1405231789 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional Television in Spanish 2125 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris arrived in our country this afternoon on board a Venezuelan Air Force plane. He was accorded military honors and received greetings from diplomats.

Commenting on the political transition taking place in Paraguay, he made the following remarks to the press:

[Begin Tejera recording] Words cannot express the great satisfaction we have experienced over the Paraguayan situation. We hope that Paraguay makes progress under a democratic system and that a system respecting the people's rights will once and for all be established in this promising country. [end recording]

Commenting on reports that the Venezuelan Government will grant asylum to Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Tejera said:

[Begin Tejera recording] Venezuela has not officially offered asylum to him, but Venezuela is a country that has traditionally received anyone wishing to go there. It is not only a land of immigrants, but a country that has received many exiles. Because we ourselves were in exile, we can understand how exiles feel. [end recording]

Tejera did not specify what position Venezuela will take at the OAS emergency meeting on the Panamanian situation.

[Begin Tejera recording] The Venezuelan position at the OAS has been stated in a draft resolution that has already been submitted for the consideration of all OAS foreign ministers. [end recording]

PLRA To Remain in Congress, Regains Seats
PY1005162189 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 May 89 p 5

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] After several lengthy discussions within the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] headquarters, the PLRA board has decided to participate in the National Congress. The decision to participate in the

Congress was made after an agreement reached between PLRA President Domingo Laino and Colorado Party leaders at a meeting held yesterday morning at Colorado Party headquarters.

Laino told the press: "As you know, we are fighting for the unrestricted implementation of the electoral law that was in effect on 1 May." This is why we met this morning at the ruling party headquarters with Colorado Party leaders, and we reached the conclusion that we both interpret the electoral law in question in the same way. Based on this interpretation, the congressional commission in charge of reviewing the electoral books held a meeting, and within this context we can say that the PLRA must have 11 of the 12 possible Senate seats, and 21 of the 23 possible seats in the Chamber of Deputies."

Laino added that elections in some districts have been nullified because of irregularities. New elections will be held in these districts within a month, he said.

These districts are: Horqueta, Primero de Marzo, Mayor Martinez, and San Jose Obrero. Laino added that the PLRA could gain more seats in these districts.

Regarding the possibility of obtaining the vice presidency in the Chamber of Deputies, Laino stated that "if there are possibilities to obtain some posts, as usually happens in democratic countries where minority groups hold the vice presidencies, and if we are offered a post in the two congressional chambers, of course we are going to consider the offer appropriately. The essential thing is to build a democracy starting from the Congress."

Senate President, Vice Presidents Elected
PY1105150989 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 11 May 89 p 6

[Summary] During yesterday's Senate session, Alberto Nogues was elected as Senate president, Eduardo San Martin as first vice president, and Dr Domingo Laino as second vice president.

Peru

Panama Election Observer Makes Statement
PY1205040189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 May 89

[Statement by American Popular Alliance party Senator Jorge Lozada Stamburi, in Lima; no date given—recorded]

[Text] I arrived in Panama on 5 May as a delegate of the general secretariat of the Latin American Parliament. I was accompanied by Humberto Pelaez Gutierrez, president of that organization. We were observers to the Panamanian elections.

On 5 and 6 May the situation was apparently normal. It was very calm, I would say. Everything indicated that the electoral process was going to conclude democratically. However, we could easily notice the absence of guarantees that we usually have here in Peru to hold free elections.

We observed that there was no freedom of the press, not in the least like we have here. The opposition could not use any spoken or written media because it was controlled by the government.

We interviewed government officials. We also interviewed opposition members and leaders who told us a fraud was under way. However, they believed that the people's repudiation of the government was such that regardless of any fraud attempt the population would vote en masse for the opposition. Therefore, it would be very hard to thwart the citizens' will.

We remained in Panama on election day, and we observed some problems that we could call venial sins. As we were getting ready to hear the initial results of the elections, well, they never arrived. I flew back to Lima on the evening of 9 May, and there were still no results, which is an unusual thing.

In addition, there was great disinformation inside Panama. I can assure you that Peruvians were better informed than Panamanians. There were no Panamanian radio stations, television stations, or newspapers providing information on what had happened or on election results.

I believe the annulment of the elections is an offense to the Panamanian people, who massively and enthusiastically went to the ballot boxes. Their enthusiasm was evident as they patiently waited in long lines to cast their votes. To annul the elections is to violate the rights of the Panamanian people.

Like the Peruvian Government, all Latin Americans must categorically protest this mockery of the people's right to elect their own representatives.

But this does not mean that we support intervention by any country or any power in Panama. They must resolve their problems by themselves. Those of us who believe we can help them should carry out our actions within the framework of existing international channels so that Panamanian democracy will develop and the people can exercise their rights. But we do not accept intervention of any kind.

We must also state that there are great interests at stake in this issue, particularly Panamanian interests regarding the Panamanian-U.S. treaties.

We believe that all Latin Americans must unite and take an international stand so the Carter-Torrijos agreements will not be repealed. We believe that by the year 2000

Panama must recover its full sovereignty in all territories and in the canal zone that is currently being exploited by the United States in keeping with previously revised treaties.

Garcia Tells People To 'Get Organized'

*PY1205154089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 12 May 89*

[Excerpts] Today, President Alan Garcia Perez unexpectedly traveled to Huancayo to find out for himself to what extent the Shining Path armed strike can affect a city.

After walking through Huancayo's main streets, the head of state went to the municipality building, asking the population to get organized in order to overcome fear.

Fear, Garcia said, will not defeat us. The future will be ours and democracy will be strengthened if we know how to defend it. He added: Our best tool with which to achieve this goal is to get organized and not be cowards. [passage omitted]

[Begin Garcia recording] A few hours ago, I came to Huancayo to share with the population these difficult times, and to find out for myself to what extent subversion and terrorism can stop our activities as a way to achieve their goals. [passage omitted]

Those of us who believe in democracy cannot passively or meekly submit to terrorism. Those of us who believe in democracy and liberty cannot accept that we must obey a slogan just because a wall is painted or a leaflet is distributed in a hurry.

I accept political struggle. I also accept the struggle against the government. I accept this and approve of it as part of the democratic system, but not out of fear. This is a shame for those who have been to the voting table.

However, you should know that it will become a thousand times worse in the future if we submit meekly now, if we obey orders and do not fight, because they will govern our consciences and our children, and they will destroy our families. You should know that this violence and death will be a thousand times worse in the future.

Some people are amazed that there is violence and death in Peru. This is just the beginning. We have not reached the limit. We will reach the limit indeed, and will even expand this horrible scenario, if all Peruvians, as is the case here, meekly submit themselves because they are afraid.

It should not be possible for 50 or 100 common criminals to terrorize hundreds of thousands of inhabitants. It cannot be possible.

I believe that our best tool is to get organized. I am addressing all storekeepers, government officials, and men and women from all political parties to help Peru.

This government has barely a year to go. What is to come in the next 10 or 20 years is important, and our children will know if we were afraid of if we managed to overcome our fear.

I am talking to the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] members, to the APRA youth, to those who voted for me, even if they feel disappointed. They must, however, continue to believe in democracy.

I am talking to all the men and women from the Popular Action Party which won here in the past. I am talking to the United Left men, to those who believe in a radical solution for our fatherland, and to those who believe that a radical solution can be found under a democratic system.

I am telling them all that we are united by the spirit of peaceful coexistence, the spirit of peaceful coexistence, the spirit of democracy, and that we must not betray democracy by obeying the orders of 50 or 100 common criminals.

How can we overcome our fear? By uniting ourselves, by organizing our blocks, by organizing our storekeepers into federations, by organizing ourselves, our defense.

There are not enough policemen and there are not enough soldiers to overcome fear. We would have to assign a policeman or a soldier to every citizen. This is impossible because a policeman, in turn, could also be afraid if fear is spread this way.

We must overcome fear by ourselves, organizing ourselves to investigate, to inquire, to identify, and, if necessary, to punish.

The peasants of many departments in northern Peru are giving us an example of courage and heroism with their peasant defense patrols. They have stopped the subversion. They have stopped the Shining Path by organizing themselves.

Why can't we all do this? Attorneys, government officials, storekeepers, and employees. Why should we wait for a policeman, who is an ordinary citizen like us, to do all this? We, a democratic, general, and majority army, must face this threat that is spreading fear among us. [passage omitted] [end recording]

No Cabinet Yet; Energy and Mines Minister Named
PY1205193089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1800 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The government has not yet announced the members of the new cabinet that will be presided over by Senator Luis Alberto Sanchez.

Thus far, Geology, Mining, and Metallurgy Institute President Mario Samame Boggio, who will occupy the post of energy and mines minister, is the only person whose name has been released to the public.

Samame confirmed this to the '60 Minutes' program today, pointing out that his main concern when he assumes his post will be to promote mining development. He added that Sanchez offered him the post and that he had accepted.

Sanchez Proposes Cabinet
PY1305033489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Vice President [and Prime Minister-designate] Luis Alberto Sanchez has sent a letter to President Alan Garcia proposing the names of candidates for the new cabinet:

Mr President, esteemed companero and friend:

When 2 weeks ago you spoke to me about the possibility of me taking the post of prime minister, replacing our companero and friend Armando Villanueva, I immediately accepted the post, considering the seriousness of the times. I realize the great difficulties that have to be overcome and the undeniable sacrifice that each and every member of the cabinet must face. I understood that the offer was not a privilege, but that it meant a patriotic obligation that could not be evaded.

When you made the offer on Monday, 8 May, for me to form a new cabinet, I asked for some time to carry out consultations within the party and to sound out authoritative opinions regarding the tasks to be undertaken. One of the points on which I consulted was related to the time when these changes should be made.

After holding all the consultations, I now allow myself to propose the names of the ministers who would be appointed to the new cabinet. In the opinion of all of them—conscious of the fact that this is the final period of the presidential office term, and that we are on the eve of important electoral events—difficulties will be on the rise, and so should the will to serve. We realize that in a very short time and in a crisis situation we have to tackle two terrible problems: terrorism and its ally, drug trafficking, on one hand, and the economic crisis and its related problems such as inflation, the foreign debt, and the fiscal deficit on the other.

This certainly does not present a promising situation, and we want to note that we are aware of it, but that we are determined to confront it with decision and without the hope of any reward. This is a heroic, risky, and demanding undertaking that we will be proud to tackle.

At the same time, I want to let you know that I do not necessarily want to remain in this post undeservedly. So I am placing this position at your disposal. Without

resigning the post out of weakness or indecision, I am still willing to leave the post to anyone who can do better, at any time when it should be convenient.

The list of the ministers whose appointments I propose, after having duly consulted with them, is the following.

Prime Minister and Presidency Minister	Luis Alberto Sanchez
Fisheries Minister	Willy Harm Esparza
Defense Minister	Army General Julio Velasquez Giacarini
Energy and Mines Minister	Mario Samame Boggio
Interior Minister	Agustin Mantilla
Health Minister	David Tejada de Rivero
Economy and Finance Minister	Cesar Vasquez Bazan
Industry and Commerce Minister	Carlos Raffo Dasso
Housing and Construction Minister	Antenor Orrego
Education Minister	Mercedes Cabanillas
Transportation and Communications Minister	Luis Heysen Zegarra
Agriculture Minister	Juan Coronado Balmaceda
Justice Minister	Cesar Delgado Barreto
Foreign Relations Minister	Guillermo Larco Cox
Labor Minister	Orestes Rodriguez Campos
[no aeronautics minister as heard]	

I take this opportunity to reiterate the expression of my invariable recognition and friendship.

[Signed] Luis Alberto Sanchez, prime minister

Car Bomb Explodes Near Garcia, Government House
PY1405174089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1620 GMT
14 May 89

[Text] Lima, 14 May (EFE)—The Peruvian police today arrested 10 people suspected of having detonated a car bomb some 300 meters from Government House where President Alan Garcia and his family were sleeping.

The police reported that the powerful shock wave destroyed windows and doors in a 400-meter radius, but no injuries were reported.

The police attributed the attack to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). The explosion took place at 0150 (0650 GMT) on block No 3 on Ancash Street, in front of the San Francisco monastery and the National Institute of Culture.

Witnesses told police that they saw three well-dressed young men abandoning the car, apparently activating the bomb by remote control some 100 meters away. The suspects then fled in another car that was awaiting them.

This is the second car bomb planted by the MRTA since 7 May, when the terrorist group blew up another vehicle in front of the San Martin military quarters, an Army administrative unit located in the Lima district of Miraflores.

The MRTA, which has detonated about 20 car bombs, began its activities in 1984. Two weeks ago, the Army shot 65 MRTA members in a clash in Jauja, in the central mountain region.

In related developments, the departments of Pasco, Junin, and Huanuco returned to normal today after a 72-hour "armed strike" called by the Maoist terrorist group the Shining Path. Trade, mining, and banking activities in these important Andean departments were completely paralyzed during the strike.

One Army officer and a civilian died, five policemen and two civilians were injured, and some \$20 million was lost in property damage during the strike.

The main Peruvian mines of lead, silver, zinc, gold, and copper are located in these three departments. Approximately 40,000 mineworkers observed the strike out of fear of Shining Path retaliation.

Communist Union Endorses Church Document
PY1405220689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1025 GMT
13 May 89

[Text] Lima, 13 May (EFE)—The CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers], a communist union organization, and other Peruvian union organizations have endorsed a harsh Peruvian Episcopal Conference document, which bluntly outlines the causes of the serious crisis the country has been experiencing.

In a 12-page document, the Peruvian bishops criticize the moral crisis, terrorism, the drug trade, and the lies that have taken hold of Peruvian life. Using harsh words, the document reiterates previous criticism and expands on it.

The Peruvian Episcopal Conference is chaired by Msgr Ricardo Durand Flores, bishop of Callao, the port of Lima. The document states: "No form of terrorism can ever be a legal means for pursuing legitimate claims, or for building or defending a great society."

Justification of terrorism, the bishops said, "stems from hatred, envy, ambition, or arrogance, and it reveals an unusual disregard for basic human rights."

The Peruvian bishops also condemn the drug trade, which it regards "as a crime by itself because it destroys lives." They add that the drug trade "is an extremely serious sin committed by producers, traders, and consumers alike," who sacrifice "lives, honor, and dignity" for the sake of drugs.

The bishops also regard as "mass murderers" those who "in their quest to amass a fortune cause the widespread malnutrition."

The bishops also criticize immoral acts of robbery and charge that "those actions, including small robberies and big shady deals, have spread incredibly among us in recent years."

The Episcopal Conference states that common robberies in the country include bribes and "commissions" to influence decisions, purchase of posts, abuse of the weakest sectors, low salaries to workers, and excessive payments required from the Peruvian people.

The bishops also criticize the lack of respect for the truth and the dissemination by media organizations of distorted or disguised information.

the document specifically alludes to politicians by noting that "in politics it is taken for granted that speeches and promises are pro forma and that they have nothing to do with truth—that is, to believe them would be naive."

"A country based on systematic lies reflects deeply rooted corruption," the document says. Commenting on family moral and sexual standards, the document says that "it is a serious crime to abandon or to neglect children."

The document "on deficiencies that must be corrected as a nation" concludes by alluding to "our lack of solidarity and civic conscience," because we are not sensitive to other people's problems and because it has become a practice to exercise authority "to one's own advantage and to the advantage of friends and party supporters."

Therefore, the bishops said, "a true conversion and reconciliation" must take place, no matter how much sacrifice this might require in a process that "will be long and complex."

Uruguay

Bush, Sanguinetti Discuss Panamanian Situation
PY1405173089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1526 GMT
14 May 89

[Text] Montevideo 14 May (EFE)—U.S. President George Bush has spoken over the phone with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti about the Panamanian situation, which will be the main subject discussed by the southern cone chiefs of state who will meet in Asuncion.

According to an Uruguayan Government source, Sanguinetti, who will travel to Asuncion this afternoon, will hold a private meeting with the presidents of Argentina, Raul Alfonsin, and of Brazil, Jose Sarney.

The three presidents will attend the inauguration ceremony of Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez.

The same source said that Bush is talking on the telephone with other South American presidents, expressing his "concern" over the Panamanian situation and the decision on the subject that will be adopted by the OAS next Tuesday [day as received].

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano reported that he will attend the OAS meeting after the presidential inauguration in Asuncion.

As of today, the Paraguayan capital will become the site of an impromptu high-level international summit with the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, as well as the foreign ministers of Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru.

According to diplomatic sources in Montevideo, the OAS is expected to issue "as clear and firm a document as possible," thoroughly analyzing the Panamanian problem.

Meanwhile, the Group of Eight, currently being presided over by Uruguay, is preparing a new document on the situation of one of its original members, Panama, which was separated from the group after the February 1988 incidents, when the then-Panamanian president Eric Arturo Delvalle was overthrown.

According to the Uruguayan Government source, the foreign ministries of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Uruguay are maintaining contacts to coordinate joint action within the Group of Eight to present to the OAS.

MLN-Tupamaros Joins 'Leftist' Broad Front
PY1105004689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0533 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 9 May (TELAM-ANSA)—Today the National Liberation Movement (MLN-Tupamaros) was accepted as a member of the "Broad Front," the Uruguayan leftist coalition.

The Christian Democratic Party recently withdrew from the coalition because it was against the membership of the MLN-Tupamaros. The Broad Front board made this decision, which is expected to be approved by the Broad Front plenum session that will meet on 20 May. [passage omitted]

The Broad Front board also accepted the membership of a Christian Democratic party group which decided to disobey the party board, and three other small groups.

Party Withdraws From Coalition
PY1405233889 Buenos Aires TELAM
in Spanish 1824 GMT 14 May 89

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Montevideo, 14 May (TELAM-ANSA)—The Party "for the Government of the People" [Partido "por el Gobierno del Pueblo"] (PGP) today officially withdrew from the leftist Broad Front coalition. In the 1984 elections in Uruguay, the PGP brought the largest number of votes to the Broad Front.

This decision, which ratifies the position of the party's main leaders, was adopted at the party's congress. PGP Secretary General Senator Hugo Batalla was proposed at this congress as presidential candidate for the PGP in the 26 November national elections in Uruguay.

The Christian Democratic Party recently also adopted the same position and withdrew from the coalition.

The "PGP" currently has three senators and 12 deputies in congress.

Venezuela

President Perez Recalls Ambassador to Panama
PA1205231289 Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT
12 May 89

[Text] Caracas, May 12 (AFP)—President Carlos Andres Perez today recalled Venezuelan Ambassador to Panama Faustino Pulgar, who returned today to Caracas, the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry reported at 2240 GMT. The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry did not give further details.

Perez has been accused of asking four Panama Defense Force [FDP] officers to stage a coup against [FDP Commander General Manuel] Antonio Noriega.

Perez answered by noting that the annulment of Sunday's elections is "a coup d'etat," and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera shrugged off the accusation by saying that "we do not fall for provocations."

Yesterday Venezuela asked the OAS to call an urgent meeting to discuss the Panama situation.

Government Reportedly To Grant Asylum to Noriega
PA1505011689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0045 GMT
15 May 89

[Text] Asuncion, May 14 (AFP)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paredes said today in Asuncion that his country has not officially offered asylum to Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces. However, Tejera Paredes told the media that his country would have no objections to receiving Noriega if he eventually decides to relinquish power.

"We have also lived in exile," he added, implying that Panama's strongman should have no problem in establishing himself in Venezuela. The Venezuelan foreign minister will represent Carlos Andres Perez' government at the inauguration of Paraguay's President-elect General Andres Rodriguez tomorrow, Monday, which is Paraguayan independence day.

Foreign Minister Denies Report
PA1405005789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0018 GMT
14 May 89

[Text] Caracas, 13 May (EFE)—Venezuela has not offered asylum to General Manuel Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, it was asserted today in this capital by Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris.

The Venezuelan foreign minister denied reports from Washington saying that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez had offered to grant Noriega political asylum.

According to the report, THE WASHINGTON POST held a telephone conversation with Perez, and he revealed that Noriega had been offered political asylum and that there was a possibility that the OAS would ask the Panamanian military commander to leave the country.

Perez apparently also said that Venezuela might request Panama's expulsion from the Group of Eight, from which Panama was temporarily suspended following Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle's expulsion in February 1988.

"It is not true," said Foreign Minister Tejera, referring to the alleged asylum offer from the president to Gen Noriega.

Tejera indicated that Perez' position on the Panamanian problem "is clear" in the sense that he is constantly consulting other Latin American heads of state and foreign ministers. "Nothing is being done on a unilateral basis," Tejera Paris emphasized.

The foreign minister asserted that Venezuela has no intention of isolating Panama and added that they are trying to help those people "restore their rights and recognize the real results of the elections," which were held on Sunday and were annulled following accusations that the government had perpetrated a fraud.

Referring to Venezuela's position during the OAS meeting next Wednesday, Tejera Paris said the government "has sent a draft resolution to all the American countries' embassies in Caracas which is to be used as the basis for discussion during the meeting."

Nevertheless, the Venezuelan foreign minister refrained from commenting on the contents of the draft resolution, because "it would not be discreet to announce the contents before the other governments have read the document."

Crude Oil Price Drops \$1 Per Barrel
PA1305132989 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 89

[Summary] Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Celestino Armas today said the \$1-drop in the export price of some crude oils and byproducts is a result of competition in the international market. Because other producers lowered their prices, Venezuela lowered its own to retain its clients. This \$1-per-barrel price drop results in a daily \$1-million loss. In addition, the most recent winter was mild, which resulted in an increase in the inventories of the leading consumers. However, Venezuela can recover from this drop, the minister said.

Guyana

FITUG Plans To Shut Down Georgetown 26 May
FL1105223089 Bridgetown CANA in English
1854 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 11, CANA—The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana [FITUG] is planning to shut down the capital, Georgetown, on May 26, intensifying strikes against the government's budget, according to a trade union leader. The protest would coincide with celebrations of Guyana's 23rd independence anniversary.

University of Guyana Workers Union president, Fr Malcolm Rodrigues, announced the protest plan. Fr Rodrigues chaired a FITUG public meeting at the John Forde car park Wednesday night. The announcement has come in the midst of strikes by the country's bauxite and sugar workers and some staffers of the University of Guyana.

Rodrigues told the FITUG meeting Wednesday night it was time the people of Georgetown come out and join their brothers and sisters in the bauxite and sugar belts. He said that with immediate effect FITUG will be trying to mobilise workers at the various work centres in the city as well as the business community—including pavement and market vendors—to stage a day of protest on May 26.

While some workers have reportedly been returning to work in the bauxite industry, generally the strikes in the bauxite and sugar belts remain solid but, to date, the seven-member FITUG has had only limited success in bringing out workers in the city on strike. And when on April 11, the Clerical and Commercial Workers Union [CCWU], whose strength lies in the city's commercial sector, called out its members on a one-day protest strike against the budget, about 250 of them were promptly dismissed by the four state-owned entities where they were employed.

While May 26 is Guyana's independence anniversary, it has not been observed as one of the country's 13 annual national holidays since Guyana dispensed with monarchy and became a "cooperative republic" on February

23, 1970. Rodrigues advocated that the independence anniversary should be celebrated this year by citizens staying away from work and filling the streets.

The meeting he chaired was also addressed by Nanda Gopaul, general secretary of the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), as well as the recently-dismissed general secretary of the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) whose executive announced this week that it has decided to withdraw the GPSU from FITUG because of what it termed "political posturings" by that federation.

Jagan Warns of Eventual 'Eruption of Violence'
FL1105222389 Bridgetown CANA in English
1917 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 11, CANA—Guyana's opposition leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, has said that unless Caribbean governments and people support the troubled South American state it could face an explosion of violence.

Jagan, in Trinidad Wednesday for a one day visit, said if this support was not given "eventually there is going to be an eruption of violence." He added: "We don't want it, we want to avoid that, but sometimes people go to it spontaneously. They are fed up."

Jagan's comments came amidst charges by the Guyana Government that members of his party are backing a campaign of violence that has seen government buildings and several acres of sugar cane burnt.

Workers in the sugar and bauxite industries in Guyana are on strike, seeking higher pay in the face of a budget that increased the cost of living.

Dr. Jagan said there had been a one third deterioration in real wages and that with a minimum wage of 30 dollars a pound of chicken costs a consumer one and half days pay. "People just can't live, that's why there was this spontaneous reaction to the budget...." Jagan said in an interview here.

Wants Debt Payment Suspension
FL1105142389 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Guyanese opposition leader Cheddi Jagan is calling on the government to suspend payments on its foreign debt. Mr Jagan also wants Guyana's government to form a broad-based coalition to run the country. He told reporters in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, yesterday, that such measures would resolve Guyana's current economic crisis. Mr Jagan cited the huge debt payments the country is currently making and an over-burdened public payroll as two financial obstacles to be overcome.

Union Voices Concern Over Violence
FL1105150189 Bridgetown CANA in English
1915 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 10, CANA—The Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU) has expressed concern about the number of reported acts of violence and arson in Guyana. In a statement, the union also called for an early settlement to strikes in the country's vital bauxite and sugar industries, now in their sixth week, and for the reinstatement of 250 of its members who were dismissed for striking a month ago.

The union's statement has come in the midst of police reports that attempts were made early Tuesday to destroy villages offices at Craig and Grove, East Bank Demerara, about nine and eight miles respectively south of here. It also followed the burning of some government building and several acres of sugar cane.

The CCWU said that as a union representing the rights of workers, it felt compelled to demand an atmosphere

conducive to the development of sound industrial relations practices. "Further, we would wish to see normally returned to the industrial relations scene with an agreed settlement in the sugar and bauxite industries and with the reinstatement of the dismissed CCWU members," the union added.

It said it considered that "the time of opportune for the nation's productive capacity to be at full "trotle" and that arson, violence, and an atmosphere charged with uncertainty can only be negative factors and a hindrance to putting the countrys economy back on its feet. "The union's chartered course is a non-violent one and rejects the notion of violence and arson as means to an means to an end," said the CCWU statement signed by union president Gordon Todd who is also a co-chairman of the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA).

Sugar and bauxite workers here went on strike in April over the government's austerity budget.

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